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ABBEY OF PAISLEY—from the North.

„ „ Interior, from the East.

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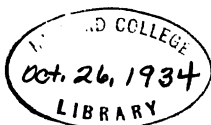
THE
HISTORY OF PAISLEY.

BY
JOHN PARKHILL.

PAISLEY:
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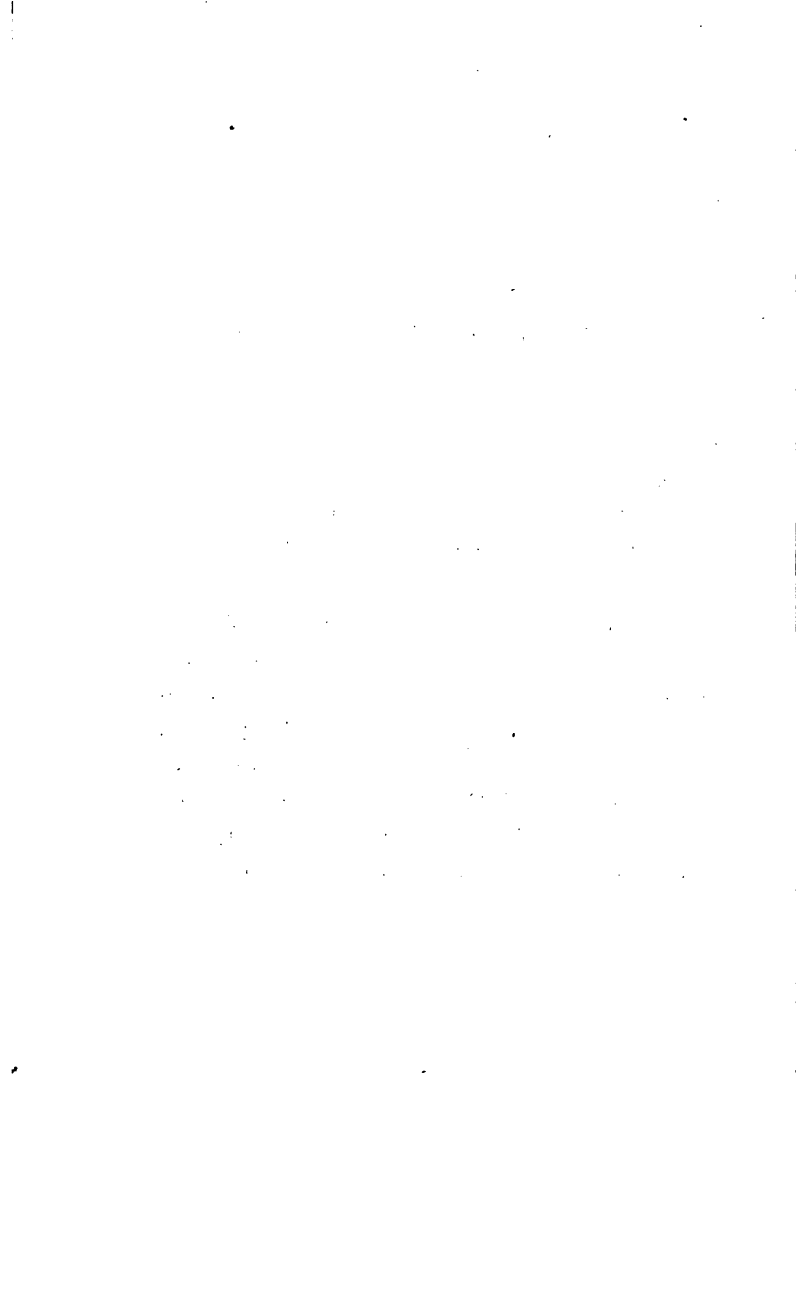
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DEDICATION.

IN the age of chivalry, it would appear that the youthful aspirants after fame did not consider they had any other thing to do in the world but to fight; and when they started on the path of life, they were surrounded by gay ladies, who presented them with spurs, and otherwise decorated them for personal warfare. Commerce, however, produced civilisation, and the use of the precious metals has extinguished this warrior tribe; and, in accordance with the happy change, the Author begs leave to return, most emphatically, his grateful and heartfelt thanks to his numerous Subscribers for the warm interest they have manifested towards him by their generous patronage, which, by him, will be held in ever honoured remembrance.



HISTORY OF PAISLEY.

CHAPTER I.

THE TOWN AT PRESENT—1857.

PRELIMINARY to the history, there is an obvious necessity to give a description of the Town and Neighbourhood, and of its general features. Paisley, including its suburbs, is spread over a tract of ground comprising an area of about two and a half miles, but the boundary embraced by the Parliamentary Burgh embraces an area of fully six square miles. Its main street runs from east to west nearly two miles, and forms part of the road from Glasgow to Beith and the towns on the coast of Ayrshire. Another long line of road (with some deflections) passes through it from north to south. The ancient Town, or Burgh, as it is called, is chiefly built on and around a fine terrace-like eminence which runs westward from the river Cart, and partly on the north side of a similar eminence running parallel on the south of the terrace already noticed.

On the east side of the river, the ground is level, and is occupied by the New Town, which is connected with the Burgh by three elegant stone bridges. The New Town was commenced in 1779, having been planned and feued by the Earl of Abercorn, of the lands

of the garden of the Abbey. Contiguous to, but forming no part of the plan, are Croft, Wallneuk, Smith-hills, and other streets, which were begun at a much earlier period. The suburb called Seedhills is of a very old date, and is the only part on the east side of the river, which belonged to the original Burgh.

Although pleasantly situated, having the fine range of the Gleniffer Braes on the south side—rendered classic by the poetry of one of her gifted sons—whilst to the north, and quite contiguous to the town, stretches for many miles one of the finest valleys in Scotland, beyond which rises the majestic mountains of Argylshire. To the south is seen the peak of Goatfell, in the island of Arran; whilst to the east, Tintock rises prominently to the eye.

Although thus situated, and containing many good buildings, and several regularly formed streets, Paisley is not so handsome as some of the larger Scottish towns. Of late years, however, its appearance has been very much improved by the substitution of numerous substantial and elegant edifices, in place of low thatched cottages; but there is still a singular alternation of handsome with mean edifices. The streets are generally well paved, and lighted with gas; and the gas works, by a late Act of Parliament, are vested in the community. The town is also plentifully supplied with water of a most superior quality, brought from the Braes of Gleniffer, a distance of three miles, by means of reservoirs, erected under an Act of Parliament passed in favour of a joint stock company in 1836, at a cost of £60,000. Since then, these works have been purchased by the community, and are now vested, by an Act of Parliament, in the Town Council; and

whereas formerly only those who paid for the use of the water were supplied, now every householder is obliged to take it.

In the neighbourhood are many elegant villas and baronial seats. The most important of the public edifices of the town is the Court Houses and Prison, including offices for the civil and criminal business of the town and county. It was erected in 1820, at a cost of £28,000. An addition has lately been made, at a cost of £10,000. It is a quadrangular building in the castellated style.

The nave of the Monastery, now the Abbey Church of Paisley, forms a most interesting surviving specimen of Gothic architecture. It is the only part which now remains entire of this once splendid and extensive building. The ruins, however, and particularly the north transept, with its large and well-proportioned window, are still interesting relics of architectural grandeur.* The other public buildings deserving notice are the High Church, with its elegant spire, 165 feet high, in the Italian style. The Free High Church, in the Norman Gothic, with a square tower 100 feet high; St. George's Church, and one of the Secession Churches, both chaste Grecian structures; and the Episcopal Church, a neat Gothic building. The Coffee-Room, also, is a very elegant structure, in the Ionic style.

About 12 years ago, Mr. JOHN NEILSON, a retired merchant of the town, bequeathed the residue of his estate, amounting, with accumulations, to £24,000, for the purpose of founding an institution to be called the John Neilson Endowment, for educating, clothing,

* See Appendix, No. 1.

and outfitting young persons who have acquired a three years' residence in town, and whose parents have died either without leaving sufficient funds for that purpose, or who, from misfortune, have been reduced, or from want of means are unable to give a suitable education to their children.

This educational institution has been in full operation for five years. The building is one of the greatest architectural embellishments of the place. It is erected on the highest point of ground in the town, and is altogether a splendid edifice, of Italian architecture. It has four fronts, each about 120 feet in length, surmounted by a central dome 90 feet high, from the balcony of which no fewer than 10 counties can be seen.

A few years ago a public cemetery was formed. It is beautifully situated, on a rising ground, to the west of the town, is tastefully ornamented; and here the inhabitants intend to erect a monument to the memory of ALEXANDER WILSON, poet and ornithologist, who was a native of Paisley.

The original parish of Paisley has been divided into four distinct parishes, and the Abbey—the original church—is a collegiate charge. There are also belonging to the Establishment four *Quoad Sacra* churches, one of which is a Gaelic charge. The Free Church has six churches. Three of them are elegant edifices; and the Free St. George's is perhaps the most elegantly decorated church in the West of Scotland. One of these churches is Gaelic parochial. There are also six United Presbyterian Churches; two Methodist; two Independent; two Baptists; and one each belonging to the Reformed Presbyterians, Evangelical Union, Roman

Catholics, Episcopalians, and Unitarians; and within the Parliamentary Burgh, in 1836, 19,812 belonged to the Established Church, and 22,400 to other religious denominations, the remainder not being known to belong to any religious body. In consequence of the establishment of the Free Church, the adherents of the Establishment are now considerably diminished.

It was long the seat of the Theological Seminary of the Reformed Presbyterian Synod. The Professor of Divinity was a minister of the town (Dr. ANDREW SYMINGTON), a very superior man who died about three years ago. Since then, the Hall has been removed to Glasgow.

An Athenæum was instituted in 1847; has a news-room, classes for modern languages and music, a discussion or mental improvement class, and the Paisley Library, containing upwards of 5000 volumes, is now incorporated with it; fees, 15s., with Library 18s. per annum. An Artizans' Institution was also opened in 1847; lectures are delivered in the hall of the Institution, but yearly a series of lectures are delivered in one of the churches of the town by a number of the ablest men in the kingdom, under the auspices of the Institution. There are also a few small Libraries, chiefly of religious works, in connexion with churches.

In 1849, a Government School of Design, of very large and commodious premises, was erected at a cost of £3,000, raised by local subscription; it is supported by fees and a grant of £400 from the Parliamentary Grant to Schools of Design. An Hospital or Workhouse was erected in 1752, to which a Lunatic Asylum was added; and recently, large additions have been made. There has recently been erected in the Abbey

Parish a Workhouse and Lunatic Asylum capable of accommodating 600 inmates, at a cost of £10,000. A Public Infirmary was erected about fifty years ago. It was recently rebuilt and very much enlarged, and now affords accommodation for 250 patients.

The Grammar School is a royal foundation, established by James VI. in 1576, and confirmed by subsequent royal deeds. The endowments are not now easily distinguished, having been merged in the Corporation property; out of which it has a fixed annual grant. There are a vast number of Sabbath Schools in full and active operation, as also a great number of adventure Schools.

There are four Newspapers in Paisley, all liberal, and conducted with much talent and discrimination.

CHAPTER II.

PAISLEY AND ITS EARLY LOCALITY.

CHALMERS in his "Caledonia," vol. i. page 156, notices the remains of a Roman military station at Paisley, but does it in so vague a manner that it appears evident he had never visited the locality. He says the expansion of the town and the cultivation of the country have almost obliterated the Roman remains. Thanks, however, to the genius of that mighty people, their remains are not so easily obliterated. In the beginning of last century, there existed the remains of a large Roman camp, with its prætorium on the rising ground called Oakshawhead, well fortified, with three fosses, and ramparts of earth so high that a man on horseback could not see over them, the ramparts continuing along the foot of the north side of the hill till it reached the Cart. This Oakshawhead on which the prætorium stood is the highest ground about the town. It appears that after the Romans left the place, it had continued common ground, and had been planted with trees. About the middle of last century, during a partial stagnation of trade, the unemployed weavers turned out, and, acting under the authority of the Bailies, cut down the trees and levelled the ramparts, which had been left in a very rugged state on the retreat of the Roman legions, converting the whole into a beautiful bowling green, which in its turn has become the site of the celebrated Neilson Institution.

At Castlehead, the residence of Mr. RONALD, there is another Roman post in a high state of preservation. There was also another on the lands of Woodside; this, however, has long since been carted away for agricultural purposes. These three stood, it may be said, on the points of a triangle, about 400 yards distant from one another, and, we must conclude, that in their combined state they formed the main strength of one camp, and that this camp would cover the most of the space occupied by the present town of Paisley.

The River Cart in these days was a limpid stream, romantic, and unpolluted with dye-works; hence it would be an object of great interest to the Roman army. Roads, of course, for the Romans were great road makers, would be formed from the outposts to the river, and tradition says that Causeyside Street was one of these roads; for that in the progress of civilization, the houses built on the side of the Roman causey naturally became Causeyside Street—one portion diverging through Gordon's Lane to the ford at Bladda, and another portion continuing to the foot of St Mirren Street. And tradition says that in the place where the monastery was built the Romans had a small temple for the use of the soldiers, a thing very likely, as military men are, notwithstanding their trade, not irreligiously inclined.

The Romans invaded Britain under JULIUS CÆSAR, in the fifty-fifth year before the Christian era, but it was not till a hundred and thirty-five years later, in the reign of the Emperor VESPASIAN, that AGRICOLA, with the Roman army, advanced into the northern parts of the country. The Romans finally left it in the year 420, having for nearly five centuries occupied Britain to a certain extent.

It is generally understood that the Romans occupied the important station of Paisley for the space of 200 years; that however numerous their marchings throughout the country might be, the head-quarters were still kept intact; and that great people formed their station into a village, where the peaceful arts] were taught, as well as those of war, and where the neighbouring clans would be made welcome to the instructions of the invaders. Happy would it have been, for Britain had the natives quietly submitted to the Roman power and rule. There is no doubt, however, that the natives did profit by the instructions so readily obtained. As civilization was at all times the great and paramount aim of Roman invasion, we may rationally conclude a knowledge and practice of the useful arts was largely diffused amongst the natives. And there is little doubt that the retreat of the Romans left valuable remains as an heirship to the people of the surrounding locality with whom they had associated. Intermarriages likewise would have taken place, for love softens all the asperities of life; and as the women have in all ages had a predilection for soldiers, the "blue-eyed fair-haired daughters of Caledonia" would have no objections to the addresses of the plumed warriors of Rome.

It is quite evident that the original inhabitants of Scotland were of Celtic origin. Innumerable have the authors been both for and against this opinion; but we are generally left where we began by those who advocate different races. Christianity was first introduced into Scotland before the retirement of the Romans, by St. RINGAN. This took place in the year 397. He built a church at Whithorn in Galloway, and we are

informed that the progress of Christianity was rapid under the good man's auspices, aided afterwards by the purer creed of St. COLUMBA. There is little doubt but that the Paisley Romanised colony was soon instructed in the new faith, the more especially as it must be evident there were many christian soldiers in the Roman army ; and therefore we may assume that at least within fifty years Christianity would be to a certain extent known amongst the inhabitants of Paisley, and, in course of time, when joined by Saxon emigrants, churches would be erected in various places in the district.

Of the Saxons, it may be necessary to mention that much misconception has arisen, many contending that the Saxon race in Scotland are Angles, and came from England. Now it is not very likely that the English Saxons would penetrate as far north as the Shetland Islands, more especially as the dialect is essentially different. It is quite obvious that they are a different family altogether ; are of Scandinavian origin, and came into Scotland by the way of Shetland ; spread themselves over the northern portions of the kingdom, and so finally over all the Lowlands of Scotland.

Christianity gradually became universal, long mixed up, however, with fairies, halloween, and witches, and at last culminated with the erection of a splendid monastery, founded by ALAN, Lord High Steward of Scotland ; and the village, which had risen under the wing of the monastery, was erected into a Burgh of Barony in favour of the Abbot, who conveyed it to the inhabitants. The villagers, like many others similarly situated, had a pretty good time of it. At the Abbey, much good living was kept up, of which they had a good share, particularly on Tuesdays, as on that day

the monks made extra good kail, and plenty of them, which they readily shared with their neighbours. Thus things got on till within a few years of the Reformation. The village had greatly increased; and the monks, and sacristan, and the prior, and the abbot, had got higher and prouder, and the people began to see that they were not exactly like the priests in the New Testament. This they learned by reading the Bible, which they began to do in secret, and one of which would be borrowed from a distance of ten miles. Many preachers of the new doctrine arose; JOHN KNOX came home; and the whole fabric which for ages had been growing up, in an instant crumbled into dust, and scarcely left a wreck behind.

During the eventful years that followed, the people of Paisley stood stedfast to their presbyterian integrity, and during the civil wars had a sad struggle. The restoration of the unprincipled CHARLES II. was the restoration of unprincipled tyranny; but the fact of the neighbouring gentry being mostly friendly to liberal measures, was a great saving-clause in the favour of our peaceful villagers. There is one episode, however, of heartless tyranny which we must not omit. JAMES ALGIE and JOHN PARK, farmers in Kinneshead, in the parish of Eastwood—a place which is now a station on the Barrhead railway—were charged with covenanting principles. On private information they were arrested and brought to Paisley Jail. HAMILTON of Orbiston, a commissioner for the trial of covenanting rebels, came to Paisley to superintend the trial. On the third of February, 1685, they were charged with refusing the oath of abjuration. They were found guilty at 10 o'clock forenoon, executed at 2 o'clock afternoon, and

buried at the foot of the gallows in Gallowgreen. On their gravestone was placed the following inscription :

**"HERE LIE THE CORPSES OF JAMES ALGIE AND JOHN PARK, WHO SUFFERED
AT THE CROSS OF PAISLEY FOR REFUSING THE OATH OF ABJURATION.—
FEB. 3, 1685."**

This stone, with part of the dust and bones of the martyrs, were removed from the common place of execution to a new burying ground in Broomlands in 1779, by order of JOHN STORIE, JOHN PATTISON, and JOHN COCHRAN, magistrates in Paisley. This burying ground forms now a part of our beautiful cemetery. A few years since, an elegant monument, from a design by Mr. DRUMMOND, was erected to their memory.

The horrid state of things which we have indicated, soon came to an end, and the twenty-eight years of cruel persecution which Scotland suffered for conscience sake were finished by the flight of the detestable JAMES II., and putting WILLIAM Prince of Orange, of glorious memory, in his place as king of Scotland, England, and Ireland. As was to be expected, the town rejoiced in the change.

CHAPTER III.

STATE OF THE TOWN TILL THE UNION.

ALTHOUGH Paisley was erected into a free Burgh of Barony in 1488, it does not appear that, for two centuries and a half, it made much progress. Its population in 1700 was 2000; in 1744, 3,879; in 1754, 6000; in 1781, 16,000; in 1791, 19,903; in 1801, 24,324; in 1811, 29,541: in 1821, 38,500; in 1841, 48,416. These enumerations are those of the Burgh. The Post Office revenue in 1726 was only £23 13s.

During the sixteenth century, there are some curious traits recorded of the municipal management of the burgh. The bailies and council are blamed for being political Vicars of Bray, being sometimes tinctured with Romanism, sometimes Episcopal, and anon Presbyterian, bearing a resemblance to the weathercock on their steeple. The town was garrisoned by a town-guard, and continued so till the establishment of a police force. A gate was on the Old Bridge, another at the foot of Moss Street, and another at the Townhead. These were little fortified; were merely yetts; and on being closed during the night, had the effect of retarding the approach of the marauding lairds, who sometimes made an inroad on the fat ecclesiastical burgesses; and if they did make an inroad, it had to be made through among the kail-yards, and so be easily taken advantage of. In these primitive times, there was plenty of law in Scotland, but it was mostly in Edinburgh. In the country, the Barons and the lairds had it, in their dealings with the people. mostly to themselves; and the bailies in burghs imitated the doings of the

lairds. Public opinion had not then come in fashion ; that only takes place through the instrumentality of that potent civilizer, commerce. Sometimes when a laird caught a bailie at a distance from the burgh, he gave him a night of the *massy more* ; and, in his turn, when a bailie got a laird on his streets, he gave him a night of the tolbooth. The burgesses, it must be acknowledged, did not hesitate to cut down a tree in the country if it fitted their purpose, and thus a kind of petty warfare was indulged in ; but when the king called up a military array, all these were laid aside for the general war.

As illustrations of municipal management, banners and swearers are to be fined one penny for each offence. Scolders are to be put in the jugs, and to be fined in twenty pence scots. Giving the lie, fined 3s. 4d. scots. A dry cuff is valued at five pounds, or 8s. 4d. English. A committer of *bluid* brings forty pounds scots. No person to let a house to a stranger till they tell the bailies and council, and have their liberty. Two women accusing one another of mutual scolding : one is fined in 3s. 4d. scots, and the other is banished, and to be scourged and put in the jugs if she return.

There is a curious story told of Sheriff Montgomery. He had differed with the bailies, and had called them sumphs and beasts. The magistrates at their first meeting ordered him to be arrested if found within their bounds, and also that he should no more be allowed to sit in the bailies' seat in the Abbey kirk. There are a great variety of these things in the records, all quite characteristic of the simple, half-tyrannical state of society at that period.*

* See Appendix.

The happy revolution was now consolidated, and the still more to be expected happy Union of England and Scotland was in sight—an event destined, in fact to be of more importance to Scotland in a social point of view than the world-famed battle of Bannockburn. The treaty for the Union did come on, and the municipal authorities of Paisley, and the inhabitants, and the ministers of the Presbytery, were sorely against it. Happily, however, it passed into a law, and the two adversaries became one kingdom.

Scotland was, we have reason to conclude, poorer at this time than at any former period of her history. For at least one hundred years, she had been in a state of turmoil and civil war; and during the whole time, the only period of tranquility and repose which she enjoyed was under the Protectorate of the greatest man that England ever produced, OLIVER CROMWELL.

Twenty-eight of this hundred years had been passed under a cruel persecution. Fines and forfeitures were of common occurrence. Numbers had been banished to the plantations and to Barbadoes. The noblest of Scotland's sons had perished on the scaffold, and hundreds had to fly to the glens and fastnesses of their native land, or were hunted like partridges on the mountains; and many of them, wandering homeless and shelterless amongst the upland moors, were mercilessly murdered by the hell-hounds acting under the orders of the bloody and unprincipled CLAVERHOUSE. By these means, the resources and wealth of the country was entirely exhausted; and hence we are warranted in concluding that national and individual poverty had completely culminated.

All honour to the time-honoured men who bravely

stood amidst all this devastation, and rested not till the worthless STUARTS were chased from the land which they had so abused, to be wanderers in a foreign land.

A lady writing in the *Scot's Magazine* states that she was a young woman in 1712. She belonged to a family of some note, and says that the gentry were so poor they could not go on a visit on pleasure or necessity for want of money; that their rents were all paid in kind; that of course they had plenty to eat, but that their visits were all confined to the neighbourhood one with another; marriages were also confined to one locality, which was not altogether productive of that happiness which a freer intercourse might possibly have insured; that silk gowns and laces were not to be seen; that she herself when in full dress wore a muslin gown. Now, when we reflect that Arkwright's machinery was not then in existence, we may guess the appearance of such a gala dress on a young and sprightly lady.

CHAPTER IV.

PROGRESS OF THE TOWN TILL 1845.

FROM the revolution down to the Union peace, a new feature in the state of the country began to preponderate; confidence was being gradually restored; improvements in farming were begun, and the intercourse of the people began to be uninterrupted; the linen trade was beginning to show signs of returning vitality, and not long after the Union showed unmistakable symptoms of a profitable means of prosperity. Great quantities of linen goods were carried into England by travelling merchants on speculation, and sold there, which brought a considerable influx of money into the burgh; and district English travellers began also after this to come and purchase goods, and thus wealth to a certain extent was diffused and daily gained ground. We may therefore assume the condition of the inhabitants was greatly ameliorated. The enmity which they had manifested towards the Union was nearly gone, for we find that in the year 1715 (MARR's rebellion) an association was formed in Paisley for supporting the government both with men and money. At the same time the council of the burgh, to provide against the danger to which the country was exposed by the threatened rebellion and the expected invasion of the Pretender, agreed to keep guard. They also ordained the inhabitants to have all their arms in readiness, and that two pairs of colours be provided for the town "next month." In consequence of the gathering of disaffected High-

landers, twenty guns were bought, and they agreed to pay twenty men four shillings per week. These appear to have been sent at the request of the Duke of ARGYLE to Stirling, and in November they got the route to Glasgow.

At this time it appears the Clan Macgregor was committing great ravages in the country. For the purpose of crushing this auxiliary rebel force, one hundred and twenty volunteers from Paisley were posted at Dumbarton, along with four hundred from Ayrshire. It was resolved to retake the boats which the Highland freebooters had captured, and with which, by means of inland navigation, they were enabled to keep the country in terror, not knowing where they might make their descent. The royalists were joined by four pinnaces and a hundred seamen from a man-of-war lying in the firth of Clyde, and a large boat from Port-Glasgow with two large screw guns. With three boats from Dumbarton, they started for Inversnaid on Lochlomond on the morning of the 11th October, and on the 13th the expedition arrived at its destination, and made every demonstration to bring out the Highlanders, but only one man was to be seen. They returned immediately to Dumbarton, after recapturing the boats, and so ended this grand expedition, without the loss of a single man.

The Duke of ARGYLE soon put an end to the rebellion, and Paisley returned to the ordinary ways of village life, which now was enjoyed in peace in so far as witchcraft was concerned, that being gradually going out of fashion. There was one set of troubles with which they were still afflicted.

The Rev. Gentlemen who wrote the statistical

accounts of Paisley, published in the last general statistical accounts of the parishes in Scotland, say that previous to the Union, it appears from the records of the burgh and the peculiarity of some of its usages, that the people were more regulated by the authority of the magistrates and council, and by the pastors of the parish and their session, than by the king and parliament.

This, it must be allowed, is a generous admission. In examining the records of the presbytery since the revolution, we were perfectly struck at the intervention of the church court with everything which they deemed or called immoral. Things of small moment were constantly coming before the court, indicating a species of tyranny that would not be tolerated now-a-days for a single moment; and what was very noticeable, and showed and exhibited their error, after the commencement of the Secession Church these appearances before the court, and the constantly recurring appeals from the inferior courts, became less and less every year, and they declined just in proportion to the spread of dissent, till at the close of last century it appeared to us that nothing came before them but what was of a legitimate character. Whilst on this subject, we may introduce a matter which took place in Paisley upward of eighty years ago. We talk very fluently of *infidels* in the present age; we are of opinion that our belief in the existence of this evil is much akin to the belief of our forefathers in witches. In Paisley at that period there was only one infidel. In this state of things he was considered a great curiosity by the whole neighbourhood, and even by the people of the surrounding country. His name

was ALEXANDER COWIE. We do not know how often this man was before the session and presbytery to see if possible and get him to recant, but all would not do, and we believe he was excommunicated at last. He was a weaver, and when the country people came into the town on the market days, numbers of them came in front of the window where he was working to have a view of so strange a creature. COWIE did not remain in Paisley long after he was before the presbytery, but went to England where he died.

In 1709, Mr. ROBERT MILLAR was appointed minister of the Abbey: this was a happy appointment for the people of Paisley. Mr. MILLAR was a man of great christian benevolence, of great suavity and kindness of disposition, and did more in humanizing the people by these qualities and the greatest humility, than the control and austerity of a whole presbytery could have effected. The parishioners had an unbounded affection for him, and he was spared to them for forty-two years, namely, till 1752, when he died. He was blind during the latter years of his life, still he kept up his pulpit duties, and often turned his back on the congregation, on which occasions the beadle was ready to touch him, when he instantly turned round. He was the father of the celebrated bookseller and publisher in the Strand, London, ANDREW MILLAR, who ushered into the world a vast number of the works of the best authors of a great portion of the last century. Mr. MILLAR was the author of the History of the Propagation of Christianity, and other works illustrative of the history of the church.

During the whole time to the Rebellion of 1745, Paisley was gradually growing in wealth and intelligence. The staple trade of course was linen and lawn, figured and plain, but various other trades, chiefly of a local, but, in a growing community, absolutely necessary kind, came into operation, and consequently the town became a centre market for an extensive neighbourhood. The history of Paisley may, properly speaking, be said to be the history of her trade. From shortly after the Union she gradually got into a prosperous condition. Some writers, copying one another, say that her state of prosperity did not commence till after 1730. We, however, have conversed with old people born before MARR's year, and they uniformly told us that the industrious classes were better fed, and had better remuneration for their labour, than most of the inhabitants of Scotland; and that a portion of the market day and Saturday were half holidays; and that the church on Sabbath was filled to overflowing; and that at the communion, the town was crowded with strangers, some from a great distance. The town, therefore, would have a tendency to render the office of bailie somewhat onerous, particularly when we consider that the whole police force consisted of three town's officers.

As an illustration of the cottages in the country, we may mention that about that period, and indeed for a long time after, a weaver in the Stanely barony had a lease of a house, a six loom shop, a byre, and nine acres of land, all for £3.

The bailies and council seem to have had, in early times, a desire to promote the amusement of the inhabitants, for we see that in April, 1608, the council by

the advice of my Lord ABERCORN, resolve to have a yearly race. This was not, however, carried into effect till 1620, when the first race for a silver bell, or for certain monies in lieu thereof, was run for from St. Connal's stane to the causeyend at Renfrew, and the first horse that came over the score there was to have a double angel; and in the race back, the first horse that came over the score at the said Walnuik, "shall have the silver bell for that year, with certain other gold pieces," which are all duly specified. These races were all duly run till 1711. In that year a sad mishap befel the races, when the horse of Mr. MUIR, brother to the Laird of Rowallan, was stabbed by ROBERT SCLATER, town officer, who, being ordered to stop the horse from running till the town's race was over, did the fatal deed. MUIR charged fifteen guineas for the horse, and pursued the Bailies for the same, and they, after many attempts to get quit of the charge, paid the money and took the horse, and put SCLATER the stabber in jail for a time. The first race round the four-and-twenty acres took place on the 8th July, 1663, and it continued to be run there yearly till about 1792.

SEMPLE, in his account of the original of the present St. James-day race, states that one of the Lord SEMPLE's gave an acre of land on the South side of St. James street (at the back of Provost FARQUHARSON's house), the rent of which to be the prize for the winner of the race, and the race for ever after to be called *our Son James's race*.

There was an Almshouse situated at the townhead, which was rebuilt and a neat steeple added in 1724. Many years since the whole was removed in widening

the street. Various other erections took place at this early period.

A very destructive fire occurred in 1733. It began at the cross, two sides of which were burnt, together with the whole of St. Mirren's street and a portion of the lower part of the Causeyside. It was soon rebuilt however, in a more substantial manner and with more durable materials, as its former were chiefly of wood.

Time was approaching to the year of the great rebellion, but the people were firm in their adherence to the Protestant succession. The rebels had reached Glasgow, and the bailies and council, knowing that money would be demanded, appointed a certain number to treat with them. Next day the rebel general sent a summons by Secretary MURRAY to the magistrates to attend at the Secretary's office, when an imposition of £500* was laid upon the "hail inhabitants." The colours used by the volunteers in 1715 and 1745 are still in existence, but so ragged they could not have been in a worse state although they had been in the Crimean war. Paisley sent her proportion of militia to the royal army, and they were at the battle of Falkirk and behaved well, but were obliged to retreat like the rest, and had nearly lost both their colours and their ensign. JOHN RENFREW, in his hurry, dashed into a hedge, and stuck and could neither move hand nor foot, and the colours flew to a

* The Highlanders acted quite a business part; when they got the deputation in their power, they put them in jail till the money was forthcoming. The magistrates expected to get the money back, either from the government or Secretary Murray, but they never got a farthing. It has been often said they got the Ferguslie estate a cheap bargain instead of the money, but this was not the case, for they paid 33,000 pounds Scots for it.

distance. One of his fellow townsmen happily came to his assistance and rescued him from his perilous situation, and taking the colours into his keeping brought them home to Paisley. Ensign RENFREW died about fifty years since.

CHAPTER V.

CONTINUED INCREASE AND PROSPERITY OF THE TOWN.

THERE is little incident in our annals for the next five years. Orchard Street was built about 1745. Trade was still improving, as well as the condition of the people; the making of thread was prospering, and good wages were obtained. A great number of bleach-fields were in operation in the environs of the town, and on account of the length of time from laying down the yarn and cloth till it was fully whitened, there was plenty of employment to be had.

In 1748 the village of Maxwellton, a suburb west of the burgh, was mostly built. Trade still continued good, and it would appear that although the habits of the people in general were sober, new and other elements were at work, and were having a seeming tendency to alter this state of things. The Earl of DUNDONALD, who lived in the old palace of the Abbot, was a wild and reckless young nobleman, and sunk in dissipation. His greatest associates were the young lads of the town; he learned them to drink and fight; and, in short, to make them as big blackguards as himself, with them he would go to the neighbouring fairs, and fight with all they met.

The choir, the transept, and several other parts of the Abbey were in ruins: these ruins contained excellent building stones, these he sold to raise money, and when this quarry was exhausted, he proceeded to take down the ruins which were still standing; and after

taking down a good portion of the North transept, he began to take down the building that was above the arch of the main window of the transept (perhaps one of the finest windows of any abbey in Britain), all to get possession of the asheler stones of the arch; the heritors however interdicted him. Thus ended my Lord DUNDONALD's exploits in Paisley: he immediately went off as a captain in the army to America, taking about forty of his old Paisley friends along with him, and was killed whilst leading the forlorn hope at the siege of Louisburgh, July 26, 1758. There were not above three of the lads he took with him ever returned. It is rather a melancholy story, but the result was quietness to the countryside.

The town was still in progress. Another large suburb was begun in 1750; Prussia Street in 1757; the High Church was built in 1756; and the Town's Hospital was opened in 1752. These advances are all indications of the prosperity of the town, and more especially the erection of so large a building as the High Church.

CHAPTER VI.

THE SILK TRADE.

WE are now approaching a most distinguished epoch in the fortunes of Paisley, namely, the introduction of the silk manufacture, which took place in the year 1759. This gave an impulse of such a propelling nature, not only to Paisley but to a great portion of the West of Scotland, that its effect is felt to the present day. It taught men what they could do, and instructed them that if they would but rely on their capabilities, they would surmount obstacles that with uninstructed men might be deemed insurmountable. The streets were first lighted with public lamps in the year 1756; previous to this the magistrates furnished forty or fifty lamps in the dark portion of the year. In 1756 the cross steeple was built; and in 1760 the Snedden bridge was built, and was afterwards rebuilt about the year 1790. All these improvements indicate most unmistakeably the increasing importance of the town, and that by this time it had emerged from the characteristics of a mere burghal village to that of a respectable town. The silk, linen, and thread manufactures went now in juxtaposition with one another; the population began now to increase; and here it may be necessary to state that the census made in these times was not so correct as it is made now, and that the number given was less than what it really was. More than this, the population of the Abbey portion, which clustered round a part of the

burgh, was not given. The population necessary to carry on the increased manufactures was supplied from Kilmarnock district, and other parts of Ayrshire. Thus, in a great measure, Paisley was peopled from Ayrshire, and from the high moral character of that people, the western immigration, unlike some immigrations, greatly improved the morality of the town, and except a partial dulness in 1773, the community was in a most flourishing condition. No people in the kingdom were better clothed, both male and female; they were well fed; at Martinmas they laid in their beef; they purchased their cheese in bulk; few families but had two cheeses in the house, and every other thing in proportion. On Sabbath the churches were filled with well dressed and attentive audiences, and everything showed the appearance of a well regulated and intelligent society. Education was much attended to, and the working classes were well informed, a characteristic which happily has continued attached to them until the present day.

On account of some expressions having been thrown out against the Scottish nation, charging them with disloyalty to the house of Brunswick, all the weavers in the town and suburbs formed themselves into an association in 1768, for the purpose of testifying their loyalty; this they did by parading the streets in grand procession on his Majesty's birth-day, the 4th of June, with ensigns, colours, lieutenants, captains, and a head captain or colonel, accompanied with drums and fifes and a vocal band. Nothing could be more brilliant than the appearance they made, so much so that numbers came from a distance to see the gallant show. These processions continued every

three years, but ended in 1792, with the exception of one in 1815.

The town still increasing, Newton Street was begun in 1773; Castle Street, 1769; Canal Street, 1767; a portion of Gordon's Lone, 1773; Wellmeadow, 1777. The American war had little effect on the progressive prosperity of the town, farther than great numbers of the young men went into the army and were sent to America, numbers of whom were killed, and those who survived the disasters of the various campaigns settled and never returned. There is something inexplicable in human nature, and its aberrations can scarcely be accounted for by all our boasted philosophy. A vast number of the young lads that were in this war had enlisted for sixpence a day, who, at the time of their enlistment, could earn easily one pound in the week, and the same took place in the wars consequent on the French revolution. The trade still continued, but began to get dull in 1783. The silk was beginning to get out of fashion, and it became evident, from unmistakeable signs, that muslin was destined to supersede the silk. The vast inventions of ARKWRIGHT and other kindred geniuses, had given such a facility to the making of cotton yarn, that the whole nation became awakened to its profitable results, and we may safely say that anticipations so universal have been more than verified. The cotton manufacture has raised the British empire to a pinnacle of power and wealth never equalled by any nation either ancient or modern, and if it had not come into existence when it did, it is impossible to conceive how she could have preserved her independence during the dreadful struggle which began in 1793, and ended in 1815.

The silk having begun to fail and go out of fashion about 1784, the cotton or muslin manufacture took its place, and gave a new and stronger impulse to the prosperity of the town than any of their former enterprises, and by 1790 might be said to be the staple manufacture of the town, the silk being nearly extinct: elsewhere in this work we have stated its progress. The prosperity of the town was still increasing, and it is scarcely necessary to mention the additions in building that were made. A slight dulness occurred in 1793-4, but otherwise all was prosperous.

The mighty revolution, which was destined to shake all the nations of continental Europe, had begun, and the operations of the French people to throw off the tyranny of centuries, was hailed in this country as the herald of a world's deliverance. Societies were constituted throughout the whole kingdom; and Paisley, in 1793, made that year the advent of her future numberless political struggles, and we may safely say that no town in Britain has had more. Numberless societies were constituted, which were soon under the management of able and active men, men of the greatest acquirements, who, although mostly belonging to the working class, had profited by the enlightened circumstances in which the town was placed, and, assisted by their taste, were possessed of very general information on all the prominent topics of the time. These societies got greatly imbued with the necessity of a change in the British government, and ideas of employing physical force for the purpose was very generally entertained. Mr. ORR, the sheriff, and the magistrates were of course thrown into much difficulty at the time; some trifling riots took place,

and bailbonds were required. So much was the insurrectionary spirit abroad, that an attempt to have a weaver's loyal procession was resisted with success. Matters, however, gradually cooled down; several of the most determined went to that land where slavery in its most horrid aspect, works in juxta-position with the purest liberty, and mutually rejoices in the name of the great republic. The war got quite hot; the army had been reduced after the peace with America to a very inconsiderable number, and had to be made up; and we have seen at least thirty recruiting parties stationed in Paisley at a time, and the same martial spirit seemed to animate our youths as formerly. To show the anxiety to make up regiments, we may mention that we saw the chieftain MACDONALD of Glen-gary, and MACDONALD of Keppoch, recruiting through the town as sergeants; and CAMERON attending a regiment of fencibles that were being broke up, snuffing with the men, and enticing them to volunteer into the afterwards gallant 79th, of which he was colonel. Drums and fifes were quite common on the Sabbath; and, without the least compunction, music, not in the least connected with psalmody, was most cheerfully played. Thus the first breach of the sanctity of the Sabbath was made in our sober town, and it must be acknowledged that our own townsmen, the volunteers, imitated the example; they seemed to consider, with the old adage, "The thief like the better sger."

For twenty years before this, the working population were perhaps the best dressed in the kingdom. Vast numbers of the young men were dressed with three cornered or cocked hat, flowered or white waist-

coats, long blue or dark green coats, casemere or nankeen breeches, white stockings, and what was termed spats, and not a few of them with top boots.

The young women also displayed great taste. Their gowns were generally fine printed cotton, and the petticoat the same; flannel was used, but no druggets; and indeed the dress, although it displayed great taste, was altogether uncomfortable; the arms were bare above the elbows, covered by long gloves, which were more for show than comfort; their full dress was generally cambric muslin. The more wealthy classes were dressed in a similar fashion, with the addition of a muff in cold weather; all wore pattens in wet weather, and when they entered a church, you would have thought, from the clanking which they made, it was an invasion of dragoons. Mr. CHAMBERS in his pictures of Scotland, says that the working females of Paisley are a parcel of slatterns, and that they never go out without being enveloped in abominable grey cloaks. The author of so malicious a string of falsehoods, received a most severe castigation from the late Mr. WILLIAM MOTHERWELL in the *Paisley Magazine*, but we believe Mr. CHAMBERS never had the grace to eat the leek. That it was the fashion to wear a brown cloak when they went out is truth; but hundreds of them wore scarlet, many of them made of the best West of England broad cloth; but the fashion went out thirty years ago, and, indeed the whole dress of the females is completely changed, and has been so these thirty years. Dresses of every variety of cloth are now worn; the sleeves of the gowns come down to the wrists; harness plaids and shawls are considered indispensable; pattens have long since sunk into the

grave of the cocked hats ; and the lasses, for taste in dress, are a pattern for the whole country, but not one iota more beautiful than their grandmothers.

The Irish rebellion still caused the recruiting to be continued ; and the raising of a number of cavalry regiments as fencibles, drew a great number of our youths into these attractive corps. Peace at length came, which finished our first French war, and a general disbanding, especially of fencible regiments, ensued. This brought home a vast number of the youths of the town, who of course exhibited a smarter appearance than when they left it. Peace, however, turned out only a hollow truce, and in a short time the dogs of war were again let loose. The militia upon a more extended form were embodied ; the regular regiments filled up ; an army of reserve was raised, and then one of defence ; volunteering took place from the militia and from these two other forces ; and previous to this, and at the time, recruiting was carried on to a greater extent than that which occurred during the years 1793-4-5-6 and 7.

Notwithstanding the numbers who left the town during the period we have just passed, there was much difficulty in obtaining a loomstead, the population being filled up by people from the country, particularly again from Ayrshire.

CHAPTER VII.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SHAWL TRADE.

IN the early part of the century the shawl manufacture commenced, which gave a new impulse to the town. The muslin trade was still tolerably brisk, but both manufactures and weavers had a great desire to engage in the imitation of Indian shawls. We have abstained latterly from noticing the increase of building, which had been going on to a great extent, and was still on the increase. The great dearth of 1799 and 1800 had a great effect on the industrious classes. Oatmeal had risen to 3s. 9d. and even 4s. the peck, and was even difficult to obtain. When meal arrived at a dealer's shop, there would be a crowd about the door in an instant of a hundred or two. The quality of the provisions was extremely bad; the wages however were good, which proved a redeeming quality amidst the distress. In the course of a year or two prices got reduced, although everything continued very high in price during the war, and only fell at the general peace, and afterwards by a considerable reduction of taxes that affected the necessaries of life. The war had changed its features in the course of the fifteen years after the commencement of the century, and gradually Spain became the theatre of conflicts which, in their results, were altogether new, at least on land, to the British people. Paisley was now exceeding loyal in its politics, and illuminations for victories obtained, were frequently and splendidly got up.

After the commencement of the war, two volunteer regiments were embodied, one of them made up from the working classes, and the other from the higher or middle classes; the first was rather the most soldier-looking, but the second was a fat, sonsey-looking corps; the alternations of good round bellies, with those of a less capacity, had rather a grotesque appearance, especially when they faced to the right or left, and afforded much merriment to the lookers on. Through time the government tired of this force; an influential gentleman in Parliament declared they were but lath and plaster; accordingly the local militia were formed, and continued under the command of Colonel M'KERRELL. This gentleman had a mighty notion of being a disciplinarian, he differed with some of the men, tried them by a court martial, and flogged them. This had roused the ire of the people of the town when they understood what was to take place, and a great crowd gathered on that day when the punishment took place. As a precaution, part of two regiments were brought from Glasgow as a guard. After the punishment was over, the Colonel was guarded to the town, but pelted by the populace in spite of the guard. The Colonel after this lost cast among his friends, left Paisley, and we believe never entered it again.

Upon the 31st of October, 1810, a passage boat, the Countess of Eglinton, was launched on the Glasgow, Paisley, and Johnstone Canal, and commenced plying between Johnstone and Paisley on Tuesday, the 6th November. On the 10th, being Paisley Martinmas Fair Saturday, curiosity and convenience had brought a great number of people to the quay to take their

passage to Johnstone. The passengers from Johnstone had scarcely landed, when a crowd of people, with thoughtless forwardness, rushed into the boat and took possession of the deck instead of going into the cabins. The consequence was, the boat, from the top weight, heeled to one side, and in an instant one hundred and eighty men, women, and children were plunged into the middle of the canal basin, in which the water was upwards of seven feet deep. The boat instantly righted, and several were saved by being taken in at the cabin windows; some swam ashore; others were taken out, and a number apparently dead were restored by the means used for the resuscitation of drowned persons; the loss of life however amounted to eight-seven individuals. After being taken out of the water they were carried into the adjoining houses, and had the services of all the medical gentlemen of the place, assisted by the friends and relations of the sufferers, and truly it was a most heart-rending sight to witness. A great number were restored to life, but it was long ere the sad catastrophe was out of people's minds.

The war was continuing in all its fury, and assuredly the people of Paisley partook a good deal in the affliction, for scarcely a week passed but letters were arriving giving accounts of the deaths of fathers, brothers, or sons, who had either perished in the field of battle or in the hospitals. Alas! the field of glory was no glory to them, but rather that of heart-rending lamentation.

We mentioned before that our town had become extremely loyal; a change however came over their minds in 1810. His majesty, George III., was afflicted with insanity, and it became necessary to

have a regent. Various opinions how far it would be wise to leave this regent unfettered, became the general topic of the day, both in and out of Parliament, more especially as the Prince of Wales would have to be the man. This agitation awakened the dormant patriotism of our politicians, and in a short time they were actively engaged in the momentous question. A preliminary meeting was immediately held, which was attended by a number of the most talented of the working classes; and after their opinions were collected, a large committee was appointed, and a sub-committee to make out an address to the Prince condemnatory of the fettering clauses in the Regency bill, and to make other necessary arrangements for a public meeting. The meeting in due course took place in the West Relief Church; the address was an excellent piece of composition, condemned in no measured terms the fettering of his Royal Highness; it, however, went farther, and expressed the wish to have a parliamentary constituency, fair, free, and equal. Speeches of considerable ability were delivered, and altogether it was an interesting meeting. The committee continued in existence till after the peace of Paris, when an infusion of new blood was made, and a restless anxiety for political change has existed in our burgh ever since, sometimes conducted with great good sense, at other times culminating in the excess of nonsense.

CHAPTER VIII.

RADICAL PERIOD.—1816 to 1819.

ALTHOUGH the wages of weavers, previous to the end of the war, were good, still they were not satisfied, but anticipated that in a state of peace the prices would rise still higher. They took no heed to a very palpable fact, that they not only had the whole British market in their hands, but also, to a great extent, that of the world likewise; and, anticipating that the general peace after the battle of Waterloo would bring the golden age, they had, amidst all their speculations, little knowledge of political economy, and never reflected for a moment that of the mighty loans that had gone from this country to subsidise the German powers, a goodly portion of them had reached that country in the shape of manufactured goods; and that, although Bonaparte had, at the time, inflicted a blow on our commercial affairs, by his Berlin and Milan decrees, it was not long till the merchants of Europe managed, by their superlative cunning, to evade them. In their anticipations, however, our weavers, as might have been expected, were miserably disappointed, for the prices fell, in a very short time after the peace, fully one half, and work was even difficult to be obtained. Many manufacturers who had engaged weavers at high prices, and for two or three lengths of webs, were necessitated to make a compromise with the weavers; and we may add here, that at this time began that series of distresses which have continued periodically

down to nearly the present day. The disbanding of the army at the peace, sent multitudes of weavers home to their native country, and as Paisley had been very productive in this commodity, "The Soldiers' Return" filled the ranks of the weaving body with a surplus of hands, and hence the evil was increased. Politics had been revived, as we stated before, at the time the Regent was appointed; and the Paisley politicians thought that the Prince of Wales was a liberal and a whig, and would make some salutary change. In this, however, they were disappointed, for the "Potentate of Wales" joined the tories. This had the effect of forming a wide spread disaffection; and when this period arrived (1817), meetings for reform were held from time to time, both here and in England; and such was the state of things that the Habeas Corpus Act was suspended; but the principles advocated in England were more of what is termed Spencean, from a person of the name of Spence who advocated the equal division of property. In Glasgow several individuals were brought to trial for holding opinions of a mixed nature, but were declared not guilty. In 1817 there was little public political agitation here; but there was a great amount of private association for political purposes; and in 1818 this continued in a greater degree, and some large meetings were held, but in the beginning of 1819 the agitation became intense; unions were established, and a vast number of members were enrolled, and these unions spread throughout Renfrewshire, Ayrshire, Lanarkshire, Dumbartonshire, and Stirlingshire. The ostensible principle of these associations, was the reform of the Commons House of Parliament, not by petitioning

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however, but by force of arms; and an active correspondence was carried on throughout the united districts, and even with England.

At this time, many will consider that the infatuation of the Unionists was astonishing, and cannot conceive that men possessed of even the first rudiments of common sense, could imagine the possibility of overthrowing a government so strong as that of Britain. A little reflection, however, will at least give some excuse for the nonsense displayed by the insurgents: WILLIAM COBBETT, one of the most powerful political writers of that day, amongst other things in his Political Register, which was very generally read, showed that the government rested all its strength on paper money, or as he expressed it, on a paper bubble, and that if this bubble could be destroyed, the government would go to pieces in a moment. He then showed that the destruction of this paper fabric could be easily accomplished by making forged notes, purporting to be those of the bank of England, and strewing them in the streets of London, and indeed throughout all England, which would bring the bank into discredit, and, as a matter of course, at once bring on the "puff out" as he termed it. This idea became fixed in the minds of the Unionists, added to which, on reading the speeches of Mr. HUNT, every enthusiast could not but be convinced that the days of the government were numbered, because if their credit was once doubted, down they went, and that the day of retribution was at hand. There is another excuse which we may mention,—the leaders were all young men, and had been brought up at the feet of the Gamaliels of reform, and in the ardour of youth considered that all talking was useless,

and that action was the only thing necessary; more than this, the old reform committee on learning the onward progress of the youthful patriots, had given up the trade of patriotism, and left the matter wholly in the hands of the new generation, contenting themselves with looking quietly on. Meanwhile the Unionists were not slack; each union consisted of from ten to twenty individuals with a leader. These unions met generally in their workshop, when the labour of the day was finished, and talked over their plans of aggressive reformation. A good number of rather humorous plans were brought forward. At one of these meetings it was proposed to put peas in a box, which was to be raised upon a poll, by the shaking of which the cavalry horses would be scared, and so run off. In sober earnest, however, these Unionists were just the stuff wherewith to make good soldiers, and among them was many an old campaigner, and if they had been backed by a few lords and gentlemen, they would have made a more effective job of it than did the Highlanders at Prestonpans. At these meetings pistols and pikes were paraded, and sometimes guns. Pikes, a very dangerous weapon, were made in various parts of the country, as well as in the town.

Sometimes two or three unions met in one place to compare notes, and a central council of leaders met once a week, and oftener if necessity required it. At these meetings delegates were dispatched to Glasgow, or to the towns and villages connected with the union. The business was conducted with great regularity and secrecy, and from the commencement till the time it was broken up, it is perfectly evident there never was a spy amongst them.

On the 17th July, 1819, a meeting was held in the Meikleriggs moor, the property of WILLIAM PEACOCK, Esq. of Meikleriggs; Mr. JAMES ALLISON was called to the chair. The day being uncommonly fine, it was numerously attended, there being at least thirty thousand present. The committee brought forward a string of resolutions for the purpose of petitioning the Prince Regent for a redress of grievances, which was negatived, and, on the motion of Mr. JOHN NEIL, an address to the nation was substituted in their place, the Houses of Parliament not being thought worthy of petitioning, which contended for universal suffrage, annual parliaments, and election by ballot. The day was such that all the meeting sat down, and continued sitting till the meeting was over, which was pretty long, as eight speeches were delivered. At the close, votes of thanks were given to Mr. COBBETT, Mr. WOOLAR, and other kindred authors, after which the meeting dismissed, those from the country marching off at the sound of the bugle.

On the 31st of July, a proclamation was issued by the Prince Regent against large meetings and assemblages of the people, charging them as seditious and warning all magistrates to use their best endeavours to put them down, as being not only unlawful but dangerous to the peace of the state.

On the 16th of August, the celebrated meeting, commonly designated as the Manchester massacre, took place; it created a great sensation here, and throughout the whole country.

On Saturday, the 11th September, a large meeting was held at Meikleriggs moor: Mr. ALEXANDER TAYLOR was called to the chair. This meeting had been called

on an early day after the unfortunate meeting at Manchester, but had been adjourned on account of the state of the weather. The chairman enjoined on the meeting the necessity of peace and good order. The day being fine, the people began to collect early. The magistrates and sheriff had issued a proclamation forbidding the appearance of flags, but a party from Glasgow entered the town and marched up the High Street and past the cross with flags, and eight flags were flying at the hustings. The hustings were covered with black cloth, and the committee was in mourning, and all the flags were edged with black. A number of speeches were delivered, all of a very fiery nature; a number of resolutions were passed condemnatory of the conduct of the Manchester magistrates. It was also resolved that the principal reformers in London be respectfully requested to meet and name a day for a simultaneous meeting of the reformers of the kingdom, in order to concert measures for reducing the power of the boroughmongers; at the same time it was embodied in this resolution, that the people from henceforth should abstain from using tea, tobacco, and spirituous liquors. When they were going home, those from Neilston went down Storie Street; but those from Glasgow went by the cross, where the special constables were ranged on both sides of the street. The first flag was seized there, and a scuffle ensued, a crowd collected in a moment, and a dreadful riot began; the windows of the council chamber were broken, and similar outrages were committed in other parts of the town. The riot act was read at 10 o'clock, and the cavalry were sent for, and arrived at 1 o'clock. There was a great deal of rioting during

Sabbath, and at 7 o'clock it became serious and general. The rioters were augmented by strong reinforcements from the villages to the West, who became active partizans. The riot act was read three times before 9 o'clock; the windows of the coffee-room, and the warehouses of Messrs. Birkmire, and also of the houses occupied by Bailie Bowie, Rev. Mr. Burns, Rev. Dr. Findlay, Bailie Lieshman and Son, Buchanan of Northbar, Mr. Sharp, Captain of the Batonmen, Mr. Lymburn, and Mr. Pollock, and the lamps of Causey-side, New Street, Storie Street, High Street, Canal Street, George Street, and Broomlands Street, were all broken. The mob began to be quite audacious and self-confident, and seemed to be practising for future days. They went down to the Methodist chapel, when the iron railing was torn out of the stone and used as weapons against the batonmen, whom they charged up Storie Street. At one o'clock all was quiet, but the mob began again to assemble at eight o'clock next morning, and soon the streets were filled with the insurgents. At one o'clock the riot act was read, and the cavalry and batonmen endeavoured to clear the streets of the mob. Two companies of the 80th arrived at three o'clock, and piled their arms at the cross to be in readiness. In the meantime the provost and the committee of reformers met with the people at St. James Street, and tried to dissuade them from further hostilities, but it appeared to be all in vain, for the streets remained filled; the military and the constables had therefore to act in clearing the streets, and all was quiet by twelve o'clock, but the rioting continued for two or three nights, the auxiliary forces coming from the West into the town after dark, and

assisting in any mischief that might be ready. Quietness was at length restored, and the surface of society seemed at least to be smooth.

The unions were still increasing in strength, and preparations for some struggle was looming in the distance.

Pursuant to notice, another large meeting of the Renfrewshire reformers was held at Johnstone on the 1st of November. About one o'clock the people from Paisley and the neighbouring towns arrived, with various bands of music and thirty-two flags. The meeting was large, and Mr. BRODIE, merchant, Kilbarchan, was called to the chair, and a handsome young woman placed a splendid cap of liberty upon his head amidst the cheers of the meeting. The speeches were brief and few, as the day was cold; there were evidently a great number of pistols in the meeting, and all the men were armed with sticks; there were a great number of women on the hustings, and five caps of liberty; the military were in readiness, but the people dispersed in the most peaceful manner. This meeting was got up under the auspices of the unions.

On the 5th November, at a meeting of the county of Renfrew, held at Paisley, on the motion of the Earl of GLASGOW, it was resolved to raise a regiment of yeomanry cavalry, and it was understood that a volunteer rifle corps would be embodied immediately. The preparations of the unions were, in the meantime, going on with great spirit. The casting of gun bullets was, at their leisure hours, a great occupation, and the manufacture of cleggs became a great amusement, with the patriotic view however of using them against

the cavalry. These cleggs were a very ingenious contrivance; they were made of lead, and in the shape of a top, with an iron spike inserted in the small end, with feathers on the broad end to balance them, that so the spike would enter the point intended. There was great practice in throwing these missiles, and the doors of the houses were in consequence dreadfully perforated, giving unmistakeable proofs of great activity. Even the little boys both made and could use the cleggs with much effect.

It is a curious fact, that these boys imitated the full grown men to a nicety. Maxwellton Street was a great focus of insurrection and patriotism, and as the military sometimes paid the street a visit, the boys collected small heaps of stones to be used against the soldiers, so eager were they to second the views of their masters. Above all, every device was had recourse to, to create alarm. At one time it was resolved that a multitude, collected from the unions, should meet at the west end of the town, and make a run through the High Street to the bank, and then to diverge into the principle streets. This feat gave rise to much consternation.

Secret meetings in furtherance of the ultimate grand measure were assiduously kept up, and drilling became quite general. They had plenty of military men among them, many of whom had been non-commissioned officers, and military scientific books were studied with much zest by the more learned in experimental philosophy. Various ambassadors had visited them from England, one of whom brought with him a large plate of Staffordshire stone-ware, which was broken in pieces and delivered over, at least parts of

it, to the leaders of the union. These were to be the credentials of Scotch commissioners that might be sent to England. The pieces given in, if all was honest, would present the round plate in all its integrity.

In the early part of December, 1819, the unions came to the resolution of sending a commissioner to England, to investigate the state of forwardness of their English brethren. The leaders accordingly held a very full meeting of their order, and agreed to send JOHN NEIL to a meeting of delegates, which was to be held in Nottingham. Mr. NEIL accordingly, having purchased a white hat (Mr. HUNT always wore a white hat), started off on his important mission. When he came home, he stated that England was in a state of great forwardness, that they were well armed, and amongst those he associated with, the common question was, "Bill, hast thou got thy pike ready?" or, "Tom, has thou got a good gun?" that whenever they in Scotland heard of 150,000 being congregated, with arms in their hands, the Scotch were to move; this was the only signal to be given, but on no account were they to move until this news arrived. These tidings created great animation, although the more sly doubted them much; but it hastened the active and brisk manufacture of pikes, and the furbishing up of old superannuated guns.

Here we may be permitted to introduce an extract from the *Glasgow Chronicle* of the 25th December, which will throw some light on the state of the country, as well as of newspaper feeling:—"Paisley being exclusively dependent on the cotton manufacturers, the inhabitants are labouring under great distress. Unhappily for themselves and the character

of the town, they have lately manifested a spirit of tumult and insubordination little calculated to give them fresh claims on the sympathy of the wealthy orders. On Friday the civil authorities proceeded to seize a violent young radical of the name of HENDERSON, a cutler, who was suspected of being active in preparing deadly weapons of different descriptions; and two formidable pikes being found in his workshop, he was obliged to give sufficient bail before he was liberated. It appears a person of the name of NEIL had been dispatched from the Paisley unions to a meeting held lately at Nottingham, and it was judged proper to examine him concerning the object of his mission. He was of course taken into custody. While he was conveyed off for examination, a crowd assembled, and stones and other dangerous missiles were thrown at the police with desperate violence, and the prisoner was finally rescued; but NEIL surrendered himself.

“The civil authorities having obtained information of two desperate characters who were very active in these disgraceful scenes, proceeded on Monday, with a small party of military, to take them into custody. When arrived at the head of Maxwellton Street, an immense crowd collected in an instant, and their boldness increasing with their numbers, they appeared determined to oppose the seizure of the offenders. When the party were marching off with the prisoners, they were insulted with hissing and hooting, and every species of rabble annoyance was poured upon them. At one time the military halted and manœuvred as if about to act in their own defence, and the mob, with their wonted celerity, scampered off in all directions. After some farther trouble, the prisoners

were lodged in safety, and the party was again sent off to seize some gun barrels which the radical HENDERSON had lodged in a neighbour's house. The articles were found, and they and the owner of the house taken to the police office. After undergoing an examination, this person and others were liberated, but the instruments were retained. In these scenes, several panes of glass were broken, but owing to the lenity of the magistrates, and the patience and steady good temper of the military, nothing of a serious nature happened."

Now for the moral of this fine story. The HENDERSON mentioned here had afterwards to leave this country for America, but he returned in a few months, and this young radical was afterwards the correspondent of this very *Chronicle*, and afterwards editor of the *Post and Reformer*, an offshoot of the *Chronicle*, for many years; he was also town treasurer of Paisley for three years, was one of the bailies, and latterly provost. As for the "two desperate characters," the writer of this was one of them; but the two had neither art nor part in the riot, nor in any other riot; they were examined by Mr. JAMES WYLIE, county fiscal, and dismissed without bail, Mr. WYLIE expressing his sorrow for the vexatious trouble they had been put to.

Meanwhile the unions were adding to their strength; drilling was carried on, chiefly at night, and they were beginning to get pretty expert; they had regular sentinels placed in case of a surprise, and upon the whole conducted their preparations for war with considerable tact and discretion, and to us it seems very strange that the authorities of the time had so limited an idea of their workings. This want of information,

we have no doubt, caused them to suppose that they were far more formidable than they really were; for truly the Unionists, with all their skill and management, were quite destitute of powder, of small arms, of cannon, and a commissariat department; alas! in this last article they were altogether deficient, unless they intended to follow the French plan, living by plunder.

About this time, for the purpose of consolidating the schemes of the union, it was resolved to hold a delegate meeting in Glasgow. Accordingly, delegates met in a public-house in the Gallowgate of that city, and from Paisley and other parts of Renfrewshire. The meeting had been only constituted, and the necessary documents laid on the table, when the servant girl burst into the room where they were met, and exclaimed that "they were all sold, for the police were coming in," and true it was the case, for a large force of these functionaries immediately entered. This was a most untoward event, for the delegates had no time afforded to destroy the papers, and of course they fell into the hands of the unwelcome intruders, with the exception of a few, which, by the dexterity of an individual, had been thrown into the fire. The whole of the delegates were then arrested and taken to jail. In the course of the day a delegate arrived at Paisley from Glasgow with all the particulars so far as they were known, and a large committee of the leaders of the union was called, and, like the covenanters of old, held their meeting in the bottom of Gleniffer glen. Nothing, however, of any consequence could be done, as the particular position of the incarcerated radicals was but imperfectly known. Precautionary steps had to be

discussed, and as this was a business in which the Unionists excelled, it was not long till they became quite satisfied with themselves; and, saving giving bail, we suppose the Gallowgate delegates were not troubled.

It appeared, as time advanced, that something astonishing was to come to pass, and that in the course of a month or two a decisive blow would be struck. It had been proposed at some of the meetings that an individual should be sent to England to ascertain what state, as to the expected movement, the people of England were in. Accordingly, Mr. JAMES PORTER started on the mission, and returned in a few days with the information that, as far as he could learn, the people of England knew nothing of the movement for a general rising, and that no preparations were making, and, for his part, he considered that if it was not a fabrication it looked mighty like one, and accordingly he divested himself of all companionship with the union. This information was a great damper to many, but it soon wore off; and in a week or two the cause was as brisk as ever. The sale of pikes, and the procuring of shafts to make them effective; cleggs too were accumulating, and all but the commissariat was in good working order. A friend of ours went out to Elderslie with one of the great leaders to bring in some pike shafts; they got twenty-four which had been alive in the Newton woods not long before; they had a mighty trouble to get them conveyed, thinking every moment they would meet the cavalry, and for safety they left the main road and took them to the canal, tied a cord to the bunch, and floated them in to the town; but after getting them to Maxwellton Street,

they had, he said, an almost insurmountable difficulty in getting them housed.

It now began to be mooted, that the commencement of the resistance to government was to take place on the first of April, and that a proclamation was to be issued on that day which would send terror into the minds of the tyrants. JOHN NEIL intimated that surgeons were engaged, and women to prepare dressings for the hospitals.

A corps of volunteer riflemen had been embodied, and a committee of the union had taken a list of the members of the corps, with their places of residence, and this list had been handed to an individual for the purpose of dividing it into sections of locality, and making out fair readable copies, as it was intended to attack them in their houses and bereave them of their arms. It was also settled that around the neighbourhood of the town, and likewise villages and Gentlemen's seats, an inroad should be made for arms, peaceable if possible, but forcible if not.

Here we are, then, moving on to the political cataract, the first of April being the day fixed on. The week previous, the proclamation was agreed upon, and was pretty generally circulated on the last day of March, and was as follows :—

“FRIENDS AND COUNTRYMEN—Roused from that torpid state in which we have been for so many years, we are at length compelled, from the extremity of our sufferings and the contempt heaped upon our petitions for redress, to assert our rights at the hazard of our lives, and proclaim to the world the real cause which (if not misrepresented by designing men, would have united all ranks) have induced us to take up arms for the redress of our common grievances. The numerous public meetings held through-

out the country, has demonstrated to you that the interests of all classes are the same—that the protection of the life and property of the rich man is the interest of the poor man, and in return, it is the interest of the rich to protect the poor from the iron grasp of despotism; for, when its victims are exhausted in the lower circles, there is no assurance but that its ravages will be continued in the upper; for once set in motion, it will continue till a succession of victims fall. Our principles are few, and founded on the basis of our constitution, which were purchased by the dearest blood of our forefathers, and which we swear to transmit to posterity unsullied, or perish in the attempt. Equality of rights (not of property), is the object for which we contend, and which we consider as the only security for our liberty and lives. Let us show to the world that we are not that lawless sanguinary rabble which our oppressors would persuade the higher circles we are, but a brave and generous people determined to be free. Liberty or death is our motto, and we have sworn to return triumphant or return no more! Soldiers! shall you, countrymen, bound by the same sacred obligations of an oath to defend your King and Country from enemies, whether foreign or domestic, plunge your bayonets into the bosoms of fathers and brothers: and at once sacrifice, at the shrine of military despotism, to the unrelenting orders of a cruel faction, those feelings which you hold in common with the rest of mankind?

“Soldiers! turn your eyes towards Spain, and there behold the happy effect resulting from the union of soldiers and citizens! Look at that quarter, and there behold the yoke of hated tyranny broke by the unanimous wish of the people and soldiery, happily accomplished without bloodshed; and shall you, who taught those soldiers to fight the battles of liberty, refuse to fight those of your own country? Forbid it heaven! Come forward then at once, and free your country and your king from the power of those who have kept them too long in thralldom!

“Friends and Countrymen, the eventful period has now arrived, when the services of all will be required for the forwarding an object so universally wished and so absolutely necessary. Come forward then and assist those who have begun in the completion of so arduous a task, and support the laudable efforts which we

are about to make, to replace to Britons those rights consecrated to them by *Magna Charta* and the Bill of Rights, and sweep from our shores that corruption which has degraded us below the dignity of man. Owing to the misrepresentations which have gone abroad with regard to it, we think it indispensably necessary to declare inviolable all public and private property, and we hereby call upon all Justices of the Peace, and all others, to suppress all pillage and plunder of every description, and to endeavour to secure those guilty of such offences, that they may receive that punishment which such violation of justice demands. In the present state of affairs, and during the continuance of so momentous a struggle, we earnestly request of all to desist from their labour, from and after this day, the 1st of April, and attend wholly to the recovery of their rights, and consider it as the duty of every man not to recommence, until he is in possession of those rights which distinguish the free man from the slave, viz., that of giving consent to the laws by which he is to be governed. We therefore recommend to the proprietors of public works and all others, to stop the one and shut up the other until order is restored: as we will be accountable for no disaster that may take place, and which, after this public intimation, they can have no claim to. And we hereby give notice, to all those found carrying arms against those who intend to regenerate this country, and restore its inhabitants to their native dignity, we shall consider them as traitors to their Country and enemies to their King, and treat them as such. By order of the Committee for forming a Provisional Government.

“GLASGOW, 1st April, 1820.

“Britons! God, justice, and the wishes of all good men are with us; join together and make it one cause, and the Nations of the earth shall hail the day when the standard of liberty shall be reared on its native soil.”

NEIL called upon our acquaintance before alluded to, and showed him the stirring document, and asked him what he thought of it. “Why,” said our friend, “you had better take care of yourself, or peradventure it may end with you in a psalm at the Grassmarket. You

have no power to carry this into effect. You have no money, you have no surgeons, and no commissariat. NEIL said they would get plenty of money, they had surgeons engaged, and they would soon have plenty of provisions; and went away in a rage. On the Sabbath, being the first of April, there was much excitement, and on Monday morning work throughout the town was at a standstill. One of the places of meeting (in Maxwellton street) was opened, and was crowded in a few minutes. The subject of commencing the contest with the powers that be was discussed; and as it seemed the plan for going into the country in search of arms was communicated by the leaders the day before in a private way to several of the members, the subject was discussed publicly, and agreed to; and as they were to take fire-arms, the quantity of powder to be used by each individual was taken into consideration, and, after some fiery and some desponding speeches, the question was put whether twopence halfpenny worth or threepence halfpenny worth of powder was to be the stock of each individual. This was put to the vote, and twopence halfpenny worth was carried. An old fellow arose in great indignation, and in going out turned round and exclaimed, "Men! are ye daft a' thegither? Gude bless me! only think o' owreturning the British empire wi' five bawbees worth o' poother!" This wise rebuke in our ancient vernacular had a sensible influence on some of the audience, who quietly retired. The meeting generally remained, however, and entered into arrangements for the campaign of the evening, which was to go principally to the Stanely barony in search of arms.

During the day, the leaders had a deal of business to

transact. The appointment of a leader was the most prominent. Various individuals for Generals were spoken of, even some of Bonaparte's generals, it was said, were to take the command. This was believed by the more credulous, as it was known that at the time these gentlemen were out of a job. It appeared, however, that every thing was left to the chapter of accidents, and that the leaders, although not spies nor absolutely liars, were nevertheless crazy fools, and that by always talking about a revolution, they at length imposed upon themselves, and became possessed of one fixed idea, that a revolution would be the result of their nonsensical and mad projects. The individual who had got possession of the list of the Rifle Corps was called upon during the day for the copied list of volunteers, as it was intended that at midnight they would be called upon, and forced to give up their arms. Whether the custodier of the list had got frightened at the monstrous proposition, or whether his humanity had got the better of his patriotism, it is difficult to tell, but he told the unionist leader that he had never taken a copy, and had burned the original list. This avowal brought on his head all the thunders of radical indignation. The custodier, in defending the propriety of destroying the list, stated to the insurgent, that although the members of the Volunteer Regiment were in general peaceable men, still, there were many of them who would fire without remorse if attacked in their houses, and, of course, many of the assailants would be killed. On the other hand, the radical force would as readily return the fire, and, of course, there would be bloodshed on both sides; and consequently, said he, my head would be taken off like a *sybo*, and

whatever loss this might be to the public, it would be a *sair* loss to me. This appeal only procured for him the denunciation of "traitor," Poor fellow, he, however, had the consolation of thinking he had saved many lives.

The sun at last went down, and the youths, full of excitement, met at Maxwellton Hill, and proceeded onwards to the Stanley Barony, (but mark it, not one of the great leaders was with them). For some time they were received with much kindness. At length they reached Foxbar, and made the usual demand for arms. The inmates had been prepared for the attack, and answered the demand with shots from within the house. They had also an outpost stationed in the adjoining shrubbery; whether they fired or not has never been ascertained. One of these shots was fatal. A young lad of the name of Cochran was shot through the heart, and another had a ball—the same ball—lodged in his elbow joint. It may be said to have been fatal too, for he died in the city of New York of the wound, about a year and a half afterwards. The lad Cochran was a youth of excellent disposition, and had never any connection with the party till that night, and had merely gone out without the least thought, either of the case he was engaged in or the result, and his fate was sincerely lamented by men of all parties. The party which was at Foxbar were few, the rest being at other places, and the question was disputed whether they should force their way into the house and be revenged for the death of their comrade, or retire. It was agreed to retire, and it was as well, for the cavalry were on their way from the town, and were at hand in a few minutes. The young man who fired the fatal

shot was the son of the proprietor of the place. He left the country immediately, and never has been seen since. The family of Foxbar long lamented the sad and melancholy catastrophe, for it broke the peace at once of a very pleasant family.

The cavalry were followed by infantry, and the insurgents had much difficulty in making their retreat into the town. They were, however, better acquainted with the country than the soldiers, which was in their favour. On the morning after that fatal night it was curious to witness the meetings of the various groups that had been in the affray. We witnessed the meeting of one party who had been at Foxbar, and none of them knew the individual that was killed. They supposed that it was an old but determined man of the name of David Wylie, and were quite light hearted, so far had demoralization gone. They were glad of this rather than that it had been a young man, as he had few to lament him. The truth, however, soon arrived, and caused universal lamentation.

It had been agreed by the section of the Provisional Government in Paisley, that a blacksmith's forge should be erected in the Pinnel Glen, in the immediate neighbourhood of Kilbarchan. This glen is situated in the gorge of the hills through which the Locher burn, by a succession of falls, reaches the low country. It is very romantic and secluded, and a place well fitted either for a forge or a smuggling station.

Every thing being settled, a party was formed, and, accordingly, having been provided with an anvil, and tools, and iron from the laboratory of pike making in Paisley, they proceeded to their destination on the very night on which the search

for arms took place on the Stanley Barony. After reaching the west toll-bar, the road became dangerous, being infested by parties of the military, and on reaching Elderslie, the party had to make a detour to the right, and to ford Elderslie burn. This being accomplished their way was clear, and they reached Kilbarchan in safety. It had been arranged that their friends in this village should be ready to meet them, for the purpose of conducting them to the glen. Not one solitary individual, however, was to be seen. They wandered about the streets some time, still all was silent as the grave. They then began to beat the causey-stones with their sticks, which only awakened and set the dogs to barking, for not a human voice was heard, nor a human body seen. Such was the silence, that a wag observed that surely the cavalry had been before them and carried all the people away. Whether the anvil was hidden or carried back to Paisley, we cannot tell; the expedition, like many another, was a decided failure, and the talking about it by the youths engaged in it was a source of much merriment long years afterwards. The place chosen for this political smithy was a good idea, being in a sly corner of a darksome glen; but the ultimate idea of overturning a mighty empire was simply unparalleled drollery, produced by insanity of a most curious and complicated kind. On the third day, Tuesday, various other schemes were entertained by the leaders, one of which was to collect all the force they could muster, and form a camp in a central moor between Glasgow, Paisley, and Kilmarnock. This plan, however, was given up, as it was urged that in this case they would be taken and killed by wholesale. Their only chance was in

street fighting. The town had been garrisoned by the 10th Hussars, the 13th Infantry, and a veteran battalion, together with some artillery and the local corps of yeomanry cavalry, as also the rifle corps of volunteers, added to which were a strong party of volunteers from the Greenock or Port-Glasgow quarter. The town, therefore, in the course of a few days had assumed a decidedly military aspect, and as the town's people were mostly idle, and perambulating the streets, the soldiers and them were greatly mixed, and of course the proximity was not altogether of a safe character. And unfortunately, two cases occurred of a very melancholy kind. The first was of an old and respectable man of the name of Campbell, who, in going about his ordinary business, had to pass through a crowd on the High Street, where soldiers and citizens were in some kind of dispute, when some fiery hot-headed veteran, without the smallest provocation, stabbed Campbell, who died in an instant. The other case was that of a young girl, who received a severe wound in the arm. At first it was deemed to be fatal, but she ultimately recovered.

It must be acknowledged, that amidst such excitement it was somewhat strange that more casualties did not take place, the more especially as the soldiers were all strangers, and were possessed with the idea that they were brought among a population of malignant desperadoes. On Wednesday, the 4th April, things were assuming a very dark appearance. The streets were guarded by the military, and a universal examination of the houses, and especially those of the disaffected underwent a severe search. A few arms were secured, but the number was of small consequence.

Some arrests also were made, but they likewise were not of much moment. The leaders, and those of the more implicated, were securing themselves by an early flight, and the authorities had little knowledge personally of their troublesome customers. Such was the honesty of the radicals one with another, that during the trials, and all the subsequent investigation, there was not an instance of one of the party becoming what is termed king's evidence. The authorities may, to a certain extent, be excused for their want of information, because the whole movement was conducted within a certain circle, who spoke freely among themselves, but into which the authorities never entered; they would as soon have thought of "louping o'er a linn." Spies there were none, neither in Paisley nor throughout the county. And this fidelity speaks volumes in favour of the good hearts of the radicals of this part of Scotland.

On Thursday, the most of the leaders had got out of the way. Mr. JOHN HENDERSON had left, and in a few days sailed from the port of Ardrossan for America. Others went from the port of Greenock for the same place. NEIL left his home on the same day, and was arrested at the head of Causeyside, and lodged in jail. Houston had been deeply engaged, and a greater number left that village than from any other part of the county. It was a month, however, before all those got away whose fears made them imagine "each bush an officer." SPEIRS and SMILIE, who were implicated in stopping the mills by virtue of the orders of the Provisional Government, and who had also taken a gun from one of the veterans on the road from Paisley to Elderslie, had gone off to nobody knew where.

SPEIRS wrote a letter from Ecclefechan, where they were working, to a friend in Johnstone. When this was understood, officers were sent off to Ecclefechan, where SPEIRS was arrested, and brought to Paisley and lodged in jail. SMILIE was not at home at the time, and so made his escape, and got to America.* All was quiet in Paisley in the course of a week, and preparations were beginning to be made for the trial of the insurgents, and small hopes were entertained of a happy result of the trials before the Commission. It was generally understood that JAMES SPEIRS and JOHN LANG would be brought to trial, and in course of time it was also known that JOHN NEIL was not to be brought before the grand jury.

Accordingly the trial of JAMES SPEIRS and JOHN LANG was proceeded with. The Court met on the first of July. Present—the Lord President, Lord Justice Clerk, Lord Chief Commissioner.

The Lord President delivered the charge to the grand jury. The Court retired for an hour and a half, and returned with a true bill against JAMES SPEIRS and JOHN LANG. Five of those indicted were not in custody.

Saturday, 22nd July. Present, Lord Justice Clerk, Lord Pitmelly, &c. The indictment was then read to the prisoners. The prisoners pleaded not guilty. The Court informed them that they must be prepared to

* In all agitations consequent on passing of the Reform Bill, the radicals kept within the pale of the constitution, except an agitation which took place a few years ago, under the auspices of Fergus O'Connor. It was what was called Physical Force Chartism. There was a strong party opposed to Mr. O'Connor, which was of great service in the matter, otherwise it might have turned out rather dangerous, but it died away without any trouble.

take their trial on Tuesday, the first of August, to which day the Court adjourned.

Tuesday, first of August, 1820. Present—the Lord President, Lord Justice Clerk, Lord Pitmelly, and the Lord Chief Baron.

Counsel for the Crown—the Lord Advocate and the Solicitor General; for the prisoners—Messrs. Grant and Sandford.

The Counsel for the Crown intimated that they should proceed with the trial of JAMES SPEIRS first.

The jury were—Sir Michael Shaw Stewart, Bart., Allan Ker, John M'Naught, Robert Hunter, Alex. Leiper, James Coats, Gavin Browning, Mathew Rodger, David Frail, John Gibson, Thomas Wright, James Wilson.

The jury was charged with the prisoner in the usual form. The indictment was opened by Mr. Maconochie, but is not given in the printed report of the trial. It is to be found scattered, however, in the opening address of the Crown counsel to the jury, and amounts to this, that the whole gist of the indictment rested upon the connection of the conspiracy charged against the prisoner with the address or proclamation issued on the first of April (see the address in page 57). In the indictment there were four counts. In some of these counts there were nineteen overt acts of high treason, which JAMES SPEIRS was charged with being guilty of, or at least some of them, all inferring the crime of high treason, and a great number of witnesses were brought forward to prove the same. When the examination of the Crown witnesses was over, the Lord Justice Clerk said, I think this is the proper time to adjourn. Before we can proceed with the trial we must have some

little refreshment by sleep and otherwise. Therefore, I apprehend this is the proper time for the jury to adjourn. Proper care will be taken of them where they are going, and we will proceed to-morrow morning with the investigation. We make the hour ten o'clock. At 12 o'clock, adjourned till to-morrow morning at 10 o'clock.

Wednesday, August 2, 1820.—Mr. Sandford addressed the jury on the nature of the evidence brought forward by the Crown, in so far as it criminated the prisoner, contending that it was their bounden duty to return a verdict of not guilty.

The evidence for the prisoner was now entered upon, and was continued under the examination of Mr. Grant and Mr. Sandford, and the cross-examination of the Crown lawyers, for a great length of time. When finished, Mr. Grant addressed the jury for the prisoner, and was followed by the Lord Advocate for the Crown, who, at the close of his address, declared that he was unavoidably compelled to ask at their hands a verdict of guilty.

The Lord Justice Clerk summed up the evidence.

The jury withdrew at twenty minutes before four on Thursday morning, and returned in one hour and twenty minutes, finding the prisoner guilty of the fifteenth overt act in the first count of the indictment, and unanimously recommended him to mercy on account of his former good conduct. It appeared that the stopping of the mills had no connection with compassing the death of the king, nor in any way connected with high treason. The court would not receive a verdict of this kind. They must find the first count, in which this fifteenth act occurs, proved generally, or as

connected with high treason. A good deal of disputatious conversation ensued between the jury and the court, and the Lord Chief Baron had to be sent for. When he came, his view of the matter was the same as already expressed by the court. The jury then withdrew at a quarter-past six o'clock, and returned into court in an hour and a quarter, and gave in a verdict similar to the one they had brought in at first, which was to the effect of stopping, in a malicious manner, the public works, and not only did stop himself, but did compel others to do the same. The Lord Chief Baron at once rejected this finding. He said, they were to find whether certain acts were done, and whether they were treasonably done or not. The jury then withdrew, and at eight o'clock, returned into court with a verdict of not guilty. The verdict was received by the audience with loud and general cheering, and one young lad who was rather more noisy than the rest, was ordered to Jail by the Lord Chief Baron, but was soon liberated.

The Lord Justice Clerk, on discharging JAMES SPEIRS from the bar, tendered him a suitable advice.

The joy was universal. The unexpected turn which the matter had taken, filled every heart with transport. SPEIRS was carried shoulder high through the streets, and Mr. JACK, the Agent, received the same compliment; and the honoured names of SANDFORD and GRANT were in every person's mouth, nor are they forgotten yet, but are household words. Every one considered that SPEIRS was lost, and therefore the joy came with redoubled force. There is one thing we may be permitted to notice, connected with this trial, in reference to our late townsman, Mr. THOMAS WRIGHT.

He was summoned as a juryman, and on the day of trial, it was intended by Mr. SPEIRS' agents, that he should positively be challenged; this, however, could not be done, as the number of jurors could not be made up without him. This turned out most fortunately for the prisoner, as Mr. WRIGHT was his first friend.

The Lord Advocate stated, that from the proceedings that had taken place in the last trial, he should not bring any evidence against JOHN LANG, but would consent to an acquittal. The jury immediately pronounced JOHN LANG not guilty.

CHAPTER VII.

FROM 1820 TILL 1841—THE REFORM PERIOD.

THE trial of QUEEN CAROLINE came on immediately after, and caused great excitement throughout the country, and Paisley, of course, instinctively joined the general ferment, and man and woman became all at once most judiciously loyal. It was, however, a kind of negative loyalty, as they had no particular kindness for GEORGE IV. A public meeting was held, and a most loyal address to the injured lady was unanimously agreed to, to be presented by Major CARTWRIGHT, Sir ROBERT WILSON, and others. Her Majesty received the address most graciously. A thing not to be wondered at, as it was one of the most loyal that she had received, and from a town, too, famed for its knowledge of the rights and privileges both of Queen and people.

By order, however, of the Lord Advocate, the writer of the address—MR. JOHN MACGREGOR—was arrested, and further proceedings against him were only stopped by the proceedings against the Queen being given up. The result of her Majesty's trial made every heart throughout the country rejoice, and no town more so than Paisley, where a grand illumination was got up on the occasion. Trade had suddenly revived, and continued in a very healthy state till the latter end of 1825.

What added much to the pleasurable aspect of the

town at this period was the return of the most of those who had left their country for their country's good, they having a greater love for "cauld Caledonia's blast on the wave" than they had for the "sweet scented woodlands" of America.

As we stated before, trade became very dull in 1825, and was dreadfully so in 1826. To the exertions, however, of Provost FARQUHARSON, and Mr. CAMPBELL of Blytheswood, the inhabitants owed much. These gentlemen, although met by almost insurmountable difficulties, unflinchingly and bravely stood at their post; and in proof of this we may be allowed to insert the following testimonial to the character of Provost FARQUHARSON:—At a meeting held on the 31st Sept., 1827, in the Saracen's Head Inn, Mr. WILLIAM CRAIG in the chair, Provost FARQUHARSON was presented with three beautiful and chastely-designed silver salvers, bearing the following inscription:—"To ROBERT FARQUHARSON, Esq. of Allargue, Provost of Paisley, as an expression of public gratitude for his exertions in behalf of the unemployed operatives during the late period of unexampled distress." Mr. FARQUHARSON was elected provost in 1824, was re-elected in 1825, and was again re-elected in 1826, so much had grateful feelings been, by his conduct, infused into the minds of his fellow-citizens.

In 1830 the death of GEORGE IV. took place, and the elevation of WILLIAM IV. inspired the people with the most lively hopes of a great change in the administration of public affairs. And accordingly, for a number of years, Paisley and the County of Renfrew became actively engaged in the reform struggle. A reform union was instituted by Mr. SPEIRS of Elderslie,

Sir JOHN MAXWELL, Mr. WALLACE of Kelly, Mr. BONTINE of Ardoch, and other influential individuals, backed by the great mass of the people ; and verily more sedition was spread at their meetings than was done by our friends in 1820. But then our new Unionists were a class not to be meddled with, and the agitation, of course, was all safe to the great mass engaged in the national turmoil. As a picture of the time, we shall give an account of the procession to Renfrew on the 9th of May, 1831. Monday being the day appointed for the election of a County Member, the reformers resolved to walk thither in procession, to hold a meeting for the purpose of passing a loyal address to his Majesty for dissolving the Parliament, in order to take the sense of the people on the subject of Reform. St. James Street was the place of meeting, and at 9 o'clock, from the Brick House in Caledonia Street, and throughout St. James Street, there was one dense mass of heads, mixed with flags of every colour floating in the breeze. Amongst these were mixed crowns, garlands, bouquets of flowers and evergreens, intermixed with oranges and small tinkling bells suspended. The procession moved off at 10 o'clock. In front of the trades rode Captain MURTRIE, Superintendent of Police, on a fine light bay horse. There were twenty-seven trades in all, with the seven districts of weavers. The bands of music amounted to thirty, and flags 170. The procession moved to the Cross, then went westward, and turned down West Street. It then proceeded down George Street to Causeyside, passed through Orchard Street, and entered the Newtown by the Abbey Bridge. It then took its way through some of the principal streets, and finally entered the Renfrew Road.

The road to Renfrew presented a scene of the most splendid description. The whole distance from Paisley to Renfrew was literally covered with pedestrians. At Renfrew they turned eastward, and so entered the policy of Elderslie, where a splendid platform or hustings was erected. Shortly afterwards, a strong party arrived from Greenock, and another from Crosslie, Kilbarchan, and Houston. Happily there was ample room for all that came, for Renfrew, although the capital of the county, and giving an ancient and an honourable title to the Prince of Wales, could not have held the third of them. A strong party from Pollockshaws had joined them on the road, with about fifty yeomen from Sir JOHN MAXWELL's estate, and in the van was Provost BAIRD, in an open carriage. Captain MURTRIE marshalled the procession in excellent style round the hustings. By four o'clock the election was over, when Sir JOHN MAXWELL, Sir M. S. STEWART, Captain HOUSTON STEWART, Mr. WALLACE of Kelly, PATRICK STEWART, M.P., and Sir D. K. SANDFORD, marched up to the hustings. The address to the King had just been read, and Mr. JOHN THOMSON was supporting it, when the deputation arrived. It was put into the hands of Sir M. S. STEWART, to be presented to the King. The baronet afterwards addressed the meeting, and was followed by his brother, Mr. P. STEWART, M.P., Mr. WALLACE, and lastly by Captain HOUSTON STEWART (now Admiral Sir HOUSTON STEWART, of Crimean fame.)

No part of the ceremony, for grandeur and effect, could be compared to the appearance which the multitude presented in the policy of Elderslie.

At length, the business being all over, the whole

marched past Mr. SPEIRS's house, and entered Renfrew by the west gate, and arrived in Paisley at 6 o'clock in the evening.

At length the Reform Bill became the law of the land, and Sir JOHN MAXWELL was returned M.P. for Paisley. It was not long, however, till the reformers got into loggerheads with their member, his votes not being in accordance with their views. It seems to us that the reformers of that time were rather hurried in their views, and expected a change earlier than the state of matters would allow. They were something like the weaver's wife who, in going home with a finished web of cloth to a farmer's wife, received, as usual, it being Martinmas time, half a cow's head, over and above the price of weaving, and on her return home, whilst showing the gift, she observed, "They micht ha'e gien me a pudding to the bargain." Sir JOHN MAXWELL, on account of the continued clamour, had to resign.

In 1832 we had a visit of Mr. WILLIAM COBBETT, who addressed the inhabitants several times, and astonished all parties by his shrewd and good-natured eloquence. In 1835, DANIEL O'CONNELL addressed a meeting in the Low Church. From this it will be evident that the political stamina of our citizens was well kept up.

It must, however, be acknowledged that our reformers were disappointed in their anticipations of the good to be derived from the Reform Act, and expressed themselves so. Now we consider that its results have been of paramount benefit to the nation. It has ameliorated the sternness of government, by allowing the diffusion of public opinion, and of course the views of

the people have ultimately a powerful influence in Parliament.

A most disgraceful riot took place on the 26th March, 1832. Cholera visited the town a considerable time previous, and had been very severe, and a great number of deaths had occurred. A number of foolish people had got possessed with the idea that the medical men were killing the people. Some people strolling near the burying ground found some shovels, and came to the conclusion that the resurrectionists had been at work, and accordingly gave the alarm. A crowd having assembled on Monday morning, a coffin was disinterred, and was found to be empty. This was proof positive, and the crowd proceeded to the town, carrying the coffin in triumph. They were met by the sheriff, but would not attend to his admonitions. They proceeded to the town, and broke the windows of several medical men, who were attendants at the Cholera Hospital. They had got possession of the van belonging to the Hospital, and broke it in pieces. They also broke the windows of the Hospital. The riot wore itself out greatly through perfect shame, and the ring-leaders were taken into custody by the authorities.

It was a curious idea that had got into the minds of people, that the medical men were doing all they could to foster cholera, and seems to us now-a-days to have been one of the most vulgar errors that mankind could be possessed of.

The first municipal election, under the Reform Act, took place, on 8th November, and was as follows:—

WM. HARDIE, ESQ., PROVOST.

ROBT. PATTISON, ESQ.,	}	BAILLIES.
ROBT. HENDRY, ESQ.,		
WM. JEFFREY, ESQ.,		
JAMES CLARK, ESQ.,		

JOHN HENDERSON, ESQ., TREASURER.

COUNCILLORS.

MESSRS. JOHN ORR.	MESSRS. WM. BROWN.
„ ROBT. COCHRAN.	„ JOHN DUNLOP.
„ ROBT. FARQUHARSON.	„ ROBT. BISSET.
„ ALEX. CARLILE.	„ THOS. CALDERWOOD.
„ JAMES DRUMMOND.	„ DEWAR WATSON.

No incidents of consequence took place for a number of years. The Council was greatly engaged on the navigation of the river Cart, and opened a Savings Bank, which we will see caused them much trouble in the sequel. There was a great deal of what may be termed bickerings in the Council, whose meetings were now open to the people. These bickerings had been caused by an individual who might not be inaptly termed a municipal pest. His constituents, however, superseded him by a more honest and quiet spirit.

The late Miss ELIZABETH KIBBLE, by her deed of settlement, left the sum of £7500 for the purpose of founding an institution in Paisley, for the reclaiming of juvenile delinquents, the trustees to have the power of retaining the money until it had accumulated to the amount which they may deem requisite for carrying the pious wish of the deceased into execution. The following are the trustees:—The Sheriff of Renfrewshire, the Sheriff Substitute, the Provost of Paisley, the minister of the first charge of the Abbey, and

the minister of the High Church. The life trustees are :—JAMES KIBBLE, Esq.; Dr. BURNS; ROBERT M'GAVIN, Esq., Glasgow; and ROBERT WYLIE, Esq., Paisley.

CHAPTER X.

FROM 1841 TILL 1843.

FROM the beginning of last year till this time, Paisley, notwithstanding the many distressing circumstances in which it was placed, was in a worse condition than ever it had been before. Indeed, its state, everything considered, was unparalleled by any town in the kingdom. In the first place, its trade was all but ruined,—bankruptcy among its commercial men, had taken place to the amount of £700,000; and thousands upon thousands of the working population were unemployed, and fed on charitable funds, drawn from the benevolent throughout Britain and Ireland, America, and the East Indies; added to this, the community had become bankrupt, through speculations entered upon with the laudable view of improving the town's property and its resources. The river trust and the council were the same individuals, and of course, the community's property became involved. This state of matters created a great amount of distress, as a vast number of small deposits were in the town's funds, placed there by the most industrious portion of the inhabitants, not a farthing of which could be taken up by these creditors at the moment. It must be acknowledged that the Cart trust had been unfortunate. In the first place, the dredge boat was a very poor piece of workmanship. This had been stated by Messrs. BARR & M'NAB, the engineers who made the machin-

ery; their remonstrances were scouted, but the sequel showed that they were right. In truth, these gentlemen were first-rate engineers, and the boats which they built on the banks of Cart in these days, are the best boats on the Clyde even at the present time. Another thing, the surveying engineers made wrong calculations in reference to the expense. It would have taken at least £100,000 to have carried out their plans, and if the Trust were not prepared to go on to this amount, a great portion of what had been expended, would, of course, be lost. The council had, therefore, a serious time of it; constant meetings themselves, and an equally constant attendance on the meetings of creditors. At length, it was resolved to take the town's bankruptcy and the river trust's bankruptcy into parliament by a bill, by which the whole would be managed by trustees appointed by the council, and by the creditors. This was accordingly done, and the bill received the royal assent on the 27th of July, 1843. The ministers of the burgh churches ranked for £20,000. At first, the trustees gave three per cent. to the creditors, it was raised in subsequent years to $3\frac{1}{4}$, $3\frac{1}{2}$, and is at present $3\frac{3}{4}$ —not a bad per centage—indeed, it is more than most of the railways are paying.

The races this year were splendid. Railways from many places in Scotland, as well as England, concentrated in and near Paisley, and, of course, threw into the town a vast heterogenous mass, and we are convinced the number present could not be less than fifty or sixty thousand; and we must acknowledge that, on that day, good order was kept up. Indeed, at the yearly occurrence of the races, this is the case.

Before the passing of the Municipal Reform Act, the provost, bailies, and treasurer, and a number of the councillors, used to come down to the bell's race, which was the first on Friday. They walked in procession, the town's officers in front, as a guard of honour, preceded by the town drummer, who, although he brought good tones out of his instrument, yet wanting the accompaniment of a fife, it made the civic ceremony somewhat grotesque, and made the *philosophers* laugh, and we have no doubt these same philosophers will now exclaim, with the new brig of Ayr,

“ Nae mair the council waddle down the street,
In all the pomp of ignorant conceit ! ”

At the same time, we are not sure if the giving up of old innocent customs has been any great improvement in this strange world of ours, which is constantly bragging of its great progress. These three last years have been truly eventful. In May, the great Disruption of our national church took place, and made a great sensation in Paisley, the ministers of the High, St. George's, Martyrs', South, and Gælic churches, came out, and took a great portion of their congregations along with them. Mr. Macnaughtan carried along with him every office-bearer of the church—the largest in the county—but the precentor, and when the residue met next Sabbath, they did not number above fifty. This appeared strange in a church which usually had a congregation of 1800. Many people thought that it was all over with the Establishment, but we are convinced that it has had a good, rather than a bad effect. It has brought into operation a great proportion of all those kindlier feelings of the genuine Christian character, and has induced ministers of all denominations

to come into closer intimacy with the members of their congregations, and to feel that the opinion of the masses is of paramount importance, and that to treat all alike, is more in accordance with the true spirit of Christianity, which is truly a leveller of distinctions, than a stiff adherence to perhaps one or two classes to the exclusion of any particular companionship of all the rest. Many of those who looked amazed at the poverty of congregations occasioned by the Disruption, and in their minds thought they would remain so for ever, forgot that marriages would go on, that a new generation would arise, and that, if the old church behaved itself well, they would have a due share of them. The distress which began early in 1841, happily ended on the 28th April, 1843—on that day the committee closed its proceedings.

CHAPTER XI.

FROM 1845 TILL 1847.

A NUMBER of the dissenting churches in Paisley were built partly from money borrowed, and partly from funds subscribed. Lately, the congregations have been making endeavours to liquidate their debts. One congregation—one of the original Antiburghers, now a United Presbyterian, anxious to get quit of a burden of £1,300, held a meeting for taking the matter into consideration, when a gentleman offered to give £300 himself, provided the congregation would raise £1,000. This proposal was readily accepted, and in a few weeks the whole debt was paid. This showed that, notwithstanding the constant recurrence of distress for the last thirty years, the public spirit of the town was not extinct, nor even subdued.

A new moral movement had come into operation a few years previous to this, namely, the resolution of numbers of the inhabitants to abstain from partaking of intoxicating drinks; and societies for carrying this into effect were established very generally throughout the country; and among the rest Paisley, where an abstinence society and a temperance league was constituted, embracing a great number of members, and were visited occasionally by temperance missionaries from various parts of the kingdom. Among the number, Mr. HENRY VINCENT, celebrated as a Chartist orator, but who had recently changed his tactics, and instead

of lecturing on political philosophy, was become a very popular lecturer on moral philosophy. He visited the town, and delivered an address of much eloquence on the tendencies of the present age, as it regards the accumulation of wealth and the grossness of taste displayed by many in all classes regarding eating and drinking.

The importance of the temperance cause in reference to the improvement, was clearly shown to be for the comfort, of the people, as well as a means of raising their status as intelligent beings, in the scale of society, and for producing that peace of mind which passes all understanding. This year a number of important buildings were being erected, and others, with alterations of streets, were projected.

The potato rot, as it occurred in Belgium and other parts of the continent, had appeared in this country; and thousands of tons of that valuable root were quite destroyed, and unsaleable; and from the universality of their use among all classes of the community, the effect was dreadful, and in Ireland produced famine, starvation, and death.

On Monday, the 13th July, the demonstration of Paisley, in honour of the repeal of the corn laws, took place. For half-a-century we have witnessed the various and successive exhibitions of the people's joy at great and moving events, but we hesitate not to say that this manifestation of public feeling exceeded all that has gone before it. It was decided that, instead of an illumination, the signs manifested should be more in accordance with the seasons, and that the decorations should consist of flowers and boughs of trees. Accordingly, the solemn Sabbath had only passed over, when

the whole country was swarming with people, all intent on transferring the rural beauties of our interesting landscape into the crowded town. Lord Glasgow, and many others of the landed proprietors, had given liberty for their woods to be denuded of their superfluous branches, and thousands were wending their way towards the town carrying boughs, and waggons were loaded with the same precious material; and from the height above Paisley, it had the appearance as if Birnam Wood was on its way to Dunsinane. By ten o'clock the decorations were completed. A beautiful arch was thrown over Caledonia Street, filled with boughs, and flowers, and stuffed birds. At Town-head, the Messrs. M'GIBBON had an arch thrown over the street; and at Maxwellton Street was another stupendous arch, all of which the procession had to pass through to the place of meeting. The town exhibited a very novel appearance. Instead of stone walls, there were beautiful avenues of trees, which had sprung up as if by the influence of Alladin's lamp, among which linties were sporting on fitful wing, and extremely happy in their new abode; and the care-defying sparrows were carrying on their never-ending loves with the greatest nonchalance; and even the crows were joining in the general hilarity, perfectly satisfied with the new order of things; and such was the general transformation of the town, that many of the little boys and girls lost their way. Altogether, the whole scene was of the most imposing kind; and there took place what has not happened since the revolution of 1688—the Provost and Bailies headed the procession.

Amidst periods of the distress of Paisley, the manufacturers were often told to change their style from

shawls to some other portion of dress. This had been done to a great extent during the past year, and two-thirds of our workmen were engaged at goods and fabrics unknown before. Still, the former kinds of goods have not been lost sight of, but have been brought out in a much improved style, although in less quantities.

Not long since, an order was given to Mr. MORGAN, by the Duchess of KENT, and the following flattering testimonial was sent on the receipt of the goods, which shows that the Paisley shawl is not yet likely to lose its repute:—"I am," says the writer, "to express her Royal Highness's entire approbation of the shawl, as regards the beauty of the colour, &c., and to acquaint Messrs. Morgan & Co. that if it will be of any service to their manufacture to call the colour referred to after her Royal Highness the Duchess of KENT's name, they may do so."

Mr. ROBERT KERR has been long well known for his spirited exertions in introducing new articles of manufacture into the town, as he is for the extensive business done by him. In addition to a very rich selection of Indian shawl patterns, he has manufactured a great variety of the most costly that can be produced. In addition to these, he has a rich variety of shawls and dresses, including splendid carriage shawls of thibet, wool, and tartans of every clan and pattern. But his most enterprising effort is the production of costly vests, after the style of the French makers of these goods. A great variety are of rare and costly patterns, such as have never been hitherto attempted in this country, and are strictly original. The cost may be easily conceived, when we state that the duty on the

card paper alone of some patterns amounts to £4. These statements are given by us to show that it is not the want of enterprize that causes the dulness of our trade.

Some years since, a maiden lady—a Miss DICKSON—left, by her will, a sum of money for the purpose of building and endowing a school in the Abbey parish of Paisley, for the purpose of teaching the children of working people who were in poor circumstances; the management to be in the hands of trustees. The trustees accordingly erected the school in the suburb of Williamsburgh, and it was opened by the Rev. Dr. MACNAIR, on the 25th of February, in the presence of several of the elders of the Abbey and other respectable inhabitants. This school promises to be of great utility in the district.

At this time the opposition to the running of Sunday trains was a question of some importance, and brought together a number of ministers, as well as laymen, to a meeting held in the High Church. It was somewhat strange that, with the exception of two ministers, none of the Voluntary ministers of the town attended. Addresses were delivered showing the criminality, in a Christian point of view, of any person aiding or giving countenance to a practice so antagonistic to Bible morality as the running of trains on Sunday, and resolutions condemnatory of the practice were unanimously agreed to.

ALEXANDER CAMPBELL, Esq. of Barnhill, had been forty-six years Sheriff-Substitute of Renfrewshire, and on the 27th February met with the faculty of procurators to take farewell. Mr. MUIR, Dean of Faculty, brought forward an address from the Faculty of Pro-

curators to Mr. CAMPBELL, on his retirement from office, in which they expressed the high esteem they entertained of his character, as an upright judge, and as a gentleman. Mr. CAMPBELL made a very feeling reply. The very fact of being for near half-a-century among us was sufficient to point a melancholy moral. He was twenty-seven years of age when he assumed the office, and he was now seventy-three.

CHAPTER XII.

FROM 1848 TILL 1849-50.

PAISLEY was again afflicted by a periodical visitation of distress, which wore off by the 4th of March.

The inhabitants, true to their instinctive principles, hailed with unmixed joy the success of the recent revolution in France, and the natural consequence thereof—the retreat of LOUIS, King of the French, to this country. In accordance with this, a public meeting was held in the Low Church, for the purpose of congratulating the French nation upon the achievement of the recent revolution. Mr. BREWSTER occupied the chair. The rev. gentleman opened the meeting by declaring that this third revolution, he anticipated, would not only be of incalculable importance to France, but to the world. He was followed by Mr. COCHRAN, who moved the address, which was carried unanimously. The city of Glasgow was at the very time in a state of insurrection, if the lawless proceedings of an abominable rabble mob deserves such an honourable title; and a Mr. HARLEY, from Glasgow, in a speech of great length, detailed the proceedings of the mob in Glasgow that afternoon; and he did it in a style as if our Western Metropolis had been another Paris, seeming to exult in the theme. Mr. BREWSTER rebuked Mr. HARLEY, and said if it was not an advice for the people of Paisley to do the same, it insinuated as much. Another public meeting was held in the latter end of

March, for the purpose of forming a branch of the great National Association, and to appoint a committee to manage the same. This was agreed to. A scene of uproar ensued which was not very characteristic of the liberty of speech. Ultimately, however, it was settled that Mr. ROBERT COCHRAN should be the delegate to the National Convention, which was to meet in London. Again, on the 6th April, in the Low Church, for the twofold purpose of petitioning for the charter and for the repeal of the Irish union. The scene which ensued was the most ridiculous that possibly could be conceived. A mock marriage took place between Chartism and Repeal. One of the Chartists took a Repealer by the hand, and in name of the Chartists and Repealers of Paisley, declared a union and marriage between the Charter and Repeal; and in the language, and quoting the words, of the English marriage service, "What God has joined let no man put asunder"; and after much more mummery, the whole was concluded, amidst bursts of merriment and laughter. We, however, never heard a word more of the marriage.

In consequence of the interference of the Government to stop the Chartist procession in London, a meeting was held in Paisley on the 13th April. It was an open air meeting, called by a drum and fife, with a placard headed "the Charter and no Surrender," and indicating that the meeting was to be at the Stone Quarry at 6 o'clock in the evening. The meeting was very numerous, had a band of music, with a numerous assemblage of flags. Resolutions were passed in accordance with the Charter, which ended the proceedings.

Another meeting took place in the Low Church. It was chiefly occupied with eulogizing the Convention,

and listening to a nonsensical speech from a young lad of the name of WATSON. Mr. M'GONEGAL moved that they should meet again on Friday, the 21st of April, at twelve o'clock noon, for the purpose of electing a person to represent them in the Convention, concluding amidst cheering to come forward in all their strength on Good Friday. He forgot there was no Good Friday in Scotland. On Friday, 21st April, another Chartist demonstration took place. The meeting collected in Caledonia Street, where they were marshalled. From thence they marched through the principal streets of the town to the place of meeting, a field in the neighbourhood of Colinslee Print Works, where several speakers addressed them, among whom was ERNEST JONES, who advised them to get fire-arms, and intimidate the Government. The only business done at this meeting was the election of Mr. COCHRAN as delegate to the Convention.

The cholera broke out again in the last week of 1848, and by the 20th of January it began to be most alarming, and in the suburb of Charleston there was the large number of 61 cases.

25th October. It was resolved on this day to establish a Ragged School, and the acting committee were authorised to secure suitable premises, and to engage qualified teachers without delay.

As very few incidents have taken place in Paisley up till 1850, and nearly as few during the last six years, we may be permitted to close our subject by taking a retrospective view of the period we have passed over. One of the most prominent features is obvious, namely, the great desire our operatives have had for fixing wages by boards of trade, with no knowledge of poli-

tical economy. They invariably come to the conclusion, that by fixing wages they will command ordinary wages, not taking into account that when there is no demand it is perfectly useless to fix prices, and equally so when the nature of the work is such, from its fanciful kind, to be constantly fluctuating, that no prices can be fixed with safety either to the operatives or the masters. The weaving body in Paisley had a powerful association here, and which embraced the whole of the West of Scotland, and it had the effect of spreading the peculiar trade of Paisley over a vast track of country, embracing many towns and villages; and the consequence was obvious to the meanest capacity, that it brought a vast amount of people into the Paisley market for work, and destroyed the very end they had in view, the keeping up of wages; for depend upon it, when the demand for workers is great prices will rise, and the reverse will be the case when the demand for workers is small.

Then as to any change of Government, if the views of the people be founded in good sense, their views will ultimately prevail. Physical force, or any others ave public opinion, will be resisted by all the most powerful influences of the state, and have the effect also of destroying for a long time the realizing of every wise and properly defined plan for the amelioration of the condition of the people. It is a strange fallacy that fixed idea—that fixing of prices will keep up wages. Everything depends, in reference to wages, and in fact to keep down the price of commodities also, on the demand. Dr. ADAM SMITH has shown all prices depend on supply and demand. It is equally strange that any operative who advocates these views is sure to feel the

indignant vituperation of his brethren. Even in this prevailing error of the working classes, there are some who are the uncompromising advocates of the philosophy of Dr. SMITH. One of the heroes of 1820 is perhaps the most determined advocate of the doctrines of ADAM SMITH within our good town, and is at all times and seasons ready to do combat in the philosophic cause; and often have we listened to his skill in the economical debate, and in the manner in which he routed all his foes. Two or three dozen such as him would revolutionize public opinion on the matter, and perhaps introduce a more sure way of raising the price of labour.

At the same time, we cannot agree altogether with economists. We consider it is wisdom in the trades to associate for the purpose of protecting their interests, as a reduction of wages is often contemplated by masters when there is no need for it. The only danger lies in employers and employed being ever ready to go into extremes.

We shall conclude by giving a list of the Members of Parliament for Paisley since the passing of the Reform Act :—

Sir JOHN MAXWELL, Bart., elected,	.	.	1832
Sir D. K. SANDFORD,	„	.	1834
A. G. SPEIRS,	„	.	1835
1. ARCHD. HASTIE, Esq.,	„	.	1836
2. ARCHD. HASTIE, Esq.,	„	.	1837
3. ARCHD. HASTIE, Esq.,	„	.	1841
4. ARCHD. HASTIE, Esq.,	„	.	1847
5. ARCHD. HASTIE, Esq.,	„	.	1852
6. ARCHD. HASTIE, Esq.,	„	.	1857

So that Mr. HASTIE has been a Member of Parliament for twenty-one years, and is now a member in the sixth Parliament from his first election.

CHAPTER XIII.

PROGRESS OF TRADE.

LEAVING the historical detail of the town's affairs, we shall here commence a review of the various trades which have raised Paisley to the eminence of being one of the first manufacturing towns in the empire; and here we may premise that Paisley, in her manufacturing skill, is quite unlike any other town either here or on the Continent, especially, in weaving. In other towns the operatives, as well as masters, have from time immemorial, kept by one branch, seldom making any deviation, except in so far as to change the pattern, whereas to the Paisley operative neither change of fabric nor style of work comes wrong. When a change takes place, a few begin it at first, but in the course of a year hundreds are at work, and performing it to the greatest perfection. This superiority arises, without doubt, from their intellectual acquirements, which for a century and a half have been much cultivated. Long before the beginning of last century this was a weaving district, linen and harn being the staple trade. The first great impetus given to this branch was shortly after the period of the Union, by pedlars, or travelling merchants, who bought the goods made here, and sold them in England, and a good many of whom, having made money, settled in town. The articles then were striped linen cloth, handkerchiefs, and bengals. These were succeeded by fa-

brics of a lighter texture—lawns—not only plain, but chequered, and ornamented with a variety of figures and colours. In 1786 this manufacture reached two millions of yards, at the value of £165,000, but is now extinct. The writer of this was well acquainted with an old man who was a draw-boy, in the Causeyside, one hundred and eight years ago. The work was knuckle-ruffles, and at that period there was a great amount of harness work going, and good wages made.

In 1759, the making of silk gauze and tiffneys was introduced, in imitation of the fabrics manufactured in Spitalfields at that time; and from the cheapness of the labour in Paisley, as well as from the superior taste and skill of the manufacturers, the Paisley gauzes gained such an ascendancy in the market, as to entice several of the Spitalfields manufacturers to remove their establishments to Paisley. This manufacture was the source of great profit to many who were engaged in it, and in 1781 gave employment to 5000 looms. The estimated value at the same time was £450,000. During the prosperity of the silk trade here, all the skill and industry both of manufacturers and operatives were brought into the most active operation; and the weavers having a thorough knowledge of linen, gauze, and light lawns, the transition was easy, and the most splendid goods were produced. The only improvement introduced by the English was a pase, or weight, instead of the ancient bore-staff.

In 1785, when the silk trade experienced a temporary interruption, many of the principal manufacturers entered into the muslin manufacture, which rose to a great height of prosperity.

In 1790, a house in Paisley sold in London a piece of Paisley muslin, 10 yards, for £30, being 30s. per yard.

The silk trade, from the change of fashion, gradually declined, although slowly, so that in ten years it was all but extinct in Paisley. It again was revived in 1815, by Messrs. FULTON & Co., the grandsons of Mr. HUMPHREY FULTON, and carried on with all its original vigour, and even improved skill; but the fashion changing, it was again given up, and this company, which had existed for more than ninety years, gave up manufacturing altogether. Meanwhile, the muslin trade gained strength every day, and was greatly facilitated by the fly-lay, which was introduced about this time. By this improvement the shuttle was mounted on wheels, and driven along a race-road by means of a short stick, termed in our vernacular a pooking-pin. This stick induced Miss MARTINEAU, in her account of her visit to Paisley, to say that the weaving trade was the most insipid that possibly could be conceived, as they had only to drive a short stick backwards and forwards the whole day, forgetting all the while that the weaver had the whole day to be watching the progress of the pattern, furnishing him with enough of intellectual employment. This should make people wary of the information given by travellers. Muslin was at first confined chiefly to lawns, but soon embraced everything of the most beautiful and fanciful kind, and far outstripped the silk trade in the great variety which was produced, and the continued advancement which it was making in decorated goods.

Tambouring, or embroidering, was also introduced, chiefly on fine or lawn muslins, which is continued by

a limited number of manufacturers, with unrivalled superiority, to the present day. Many towns attempted the manufacture of figured muslins, but they did not succeed. Even Glasgow, with all her energy, and all her capital and various resources, failed in the attempt, and only managed to secure a small share of the trade by the employment of Paisley operatives. In short, at no time, and under no circumstances, did the people of Paisley enjoy so much prosperity as at this period. The work was not heavy, everything was lightsome, and the work-looms were so noiseless that the operatives could converse with one another with the greatest facility, by which means intellectuality went hand in hand with labour. This branch, after attaining such a height of prosperity, began at the end of last century to fail, and is now nearly abandoned, with the exception of fine muslin, embroidered by fancy needlework, the embroidery executed by females, in the villages in Ayrshire and in the north of Ireland, of which about 2000 are constantly employed by Paisley houses.

In 1805, the manufacture of shawls was introduced, and gradually became, and continues to be, the staple trade of the town. Imitation shawls of all kinds, materials, and combinations of materials, have at different times been made here, such as thibet and cashmere shawls, and the scarfs and turbans worn by the natives of the East, and called zebras, from the resemblance to the skin of the animal of the same name.

For the better description of shawls, the genuine Cashmere wool is imported, but Australian and fine German are also used.

It is a curious, and a not easily accounted for or explained fact, that the Cashmere yarn is generally spun

in France, and that the attempts to produce it here have not been hitherto successful. Edinburgh had thibet in the manufacture, but has been beat out of the field; and although a few shawls are made in Norwich, Paisley may be said to be without a British rival in this department, but has a strong competition to sustain with the shawl manufacturers of Lyons and Paris, who have attained to great perfection in the art. At no former period did the Paisley shawls rank so high as at present, 1856. Indeed it is said that none but an experienced dealer can distinguish between a French and a Paisley shawl.

Next in importance to the Indian imitation shawls, are tartan and woollen shawls, which has reached to be a large trade in the course of a very few years. These shawls, of a coarser description, have for a considerable time been manufactured at Galashiels, and in Stirlingshire; but the superior skill and taste of the Paisley weavers, particularly in fancy goods, and the advantage of first rate designing, have enabled the manufacturers to produce much finer and more ornamented shawls in this class.

Various other kinds of shawls are also made, but to a comparatively limited extent, among which may be mentioned Canton crape shawls, and embroidered shawls. The latter are so very rich that £5 or £6 is paid for embroidering alone.

A beautiful and ingenious shawl, called chenille (catterpillar), for its variegated colours and softness of feel, was formerly manufactured to a much larger extent than at present. This shawl is often labelled in the windows "*velour au soire*"—silk velvet—a name descriptive of its appearance.

A few years ago, printed shawls, in imitation of harness ones, were attempted. The most fashionable kind of this species, extensively worn, is the barege shawl, printed on thin woollen gauze, and is very light and well adapted for summer wear. In addition, shawls—*mousel-de-leans*,, cotton, and silk, are extensively printed, and it is understood that many of the London houses now send goods to be printed here. The progress of the printing trade is one of the most remarkable in the annals of the trade. Unknown a few years ago, it now employs 1853 people, in addition to which 1000 to 1200 in the district adjoining, by Paisley houses. At present, in 1856, block-printing has been much depressed, but there is not the least doubt but that it will soon recover.

We may remark the fine woollen cloths formerly used in printing were woven in France, and the other qualities at Bradford, but it is now understood that the manufacturers have succeeded in producing a cloth quite equal to that formerly imported; indeed, in most of the large manufacturing establishments the whole process, from the raw material to the finish, is conducted on the premises.

The varieties of textile manufactures have increased considerably within these few years. Several makers make sales to the extent of £40,000 to £60,000, and in the case of one house to £100,000. The total sales in 1850 are estimated at from £1,100,000 to £1,200,000. The looms employed may amount to fully 3,000.

The Jacquard has also been extensively introduced, and many excellent improvements have been made upon them, some of which are exceedingly ingenious, and have been patented.

All the trades depending on, and subordinate to the shawl branch, have increased, particularly that of dyeing. This branch is extensively carried on, not only for Paisley, but also for Glasgow houses, and gives employment to from 600 to 700 people. The great perfection to which dyeing has been brought, and the purity of the water, is the main cause of the increase.

Besides the above, there are two power-loom factories, for cotton cloth used in printing—one at Underwood, on a most extensive scale.

The town has four iron foundries, two small brass foundries, and several large machine shops, where steam-engines, as well as small machinery, are made; one large distillery, and a most extensive brewery, and one large tan-work.

There is a building yard for iron steamers, contiguous to the river Cart. Some years ago this business was prosecuted with much success by Messrs. BARR & MACNAB. Here the most superior boats on the Clyde were built, everything being finished from the keel to the mechanism of the engine. That firm removed, and since that the yard has been occupied by Messrs. BLACKWOOD & GORDON, engineers, whose vessels not only ply on the Clyde, but not long since one of them left this for South America. In short, if a small sum of money were expended on the river Cart, it would be of inconceivable advantage as a building station, even although it should be of no use otherwise.

During the progress of Paisley, several trades gradually started; amongst the rest soap and candle making. A large hard soap and candle-work was at work in 1764, and a soft soap work was begun in 1766, the annual value of which was about £4,000. There are

two candleworks at present in operation ; and there are two large and most extensive soap-works, viz., the Abercorn, on the east side of the river, and St. Mirren's on the west, both close on the river. From one of these works 1,294,960 lbs. was made in 1850. The increase in 1856 must now be great, as the work is nearly doubled.

Cotton spinning was early introduced into the town ; and at one period there were ten mills engaged in the trade. Now only one remains : a very large establishment.

For twenty-five years previous to the last three years, Paisley has been only able to maintain its ground, without enjoying much of that social happiness which the progress of improved art should ensure. During that period its manufacturing population have generally been periodically visited by distress every three years. The most extreme distress, however, occurred in 1841-42. During the greater part of these two years, an immense mass of the population, varying in number from 2180 in July, 1841, to 14,791 in Feb., 1842, were supported by charity. The amount of money expended in the relief of the distress, independent of contributions in vegetables, food, and clothing, exceeded £50,000. These severe sufferings arose, in a great measure, from the peculiar fancy nature of the manufacture of the town, which made them the first to feel the effect of general commercial distress or depression in the country ; the mass of the population being too much dependent on one branch of trade. These distresses, it is understood, were exaggerated, in 1841, by injudicious bank accommodation having been afforded to certain parties without capital, which

tempted the latter to engage in the most hazardous speculations, generally to their own injury, and in many instances to the great injury of the town.

Renfrew is, properly speaking, the port of Paisley; but the White Cart, which falls into the Clyde only a few hundred yards west of Renfrew, is navigable to Paisley for vessels of 80 tons burthen. Much has been done to improve its navigation.

There is a railway between the town and Renfrew, the traffic on which is carried by horse-power. This railway has a rise of 16 feet on the whole distance— $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

A railway from Glasgow passes through the town, where it divides itself into two branches. One goes to Ayr, and branches off to Kilmarnock, and joins the Dumfries and Carlisle Railway, with other railways in the neighbourhood. The other leads to Greenock. During the year ending July, 1850, 521,130 passengers were carried between Paisley and Glasgow. In addition to these, during the same period 251,534 passed on the Ayr line, and 355,516 on the Greenock line.

The Glasgow, Paisley, and Johnstone Canal opened in 1811, commencing at Port Eglinton, and passing through Paisley, and terminating at Johnstone—a distance of eleven miles. The first light passenger boat was established on the canal in 1831, but was superseded by the railway, after a severe struggle, the genius of the immortal WATT carrying the day. Little did the people then think that steam would circumnavigate the globe.

The neighbourhood of the town produces coal, ironstone, fine clay, potters' clay; and there are manufac-

turers of sulphate of iron, or copperas, alum, muriate of potash, and sulphate of ammonia. Valuable iron-stone has been found in the fine valley that stretches from Milliken House to Paisley, and a dozen of pits are working. Additional shafts are putting down, presenting a scene of great activity. Two collier villages have been built—"Inkerman" and "Balaklava"—named after the Crimean victories; and there is every prospect that the district will in a short time rival the iron and coal fields of Lanarkshire. This will have a powerful influence upon the prosperity of Paisley, both as regards its internal trade and as to the fact of its being understood that the lands belonging to the community are full of iron-stone and coal. As an indication of the reliance of the coal-masters on an extended trade, a railway has been made (the Linwood Junction) from Ferguslie Place, on the Ayrshire line, to Linwood, to cross Black Cart there, and communicate with the various pits in the district, whilst the eastern district can find transport either by Cart or the railway at Paisley.

CHAPTER XIII.

THE THREAD TRADE.

PAISLEY has been long celebrated for the manufacture of thread. At first it was made from linen yarn, and originated with a Miss SHAW, daughter of the Laird of Bargarran, in the parish of Erskine. Miss SHAW is otherwise noted in the history and traditions of Paisley, by her connection with one of the last convictions for witchcraft in Scotland; it may, therefore, be interesting to notice this episode in her history, previous to our entering on our review of the thread trade. HUGO ARNOT, Esq., introduces the story thus:—"An impostor appeared in the character of a person tormented by witches. CHRISTEAN SHAW, daughter of JOHN SHAW, of Bargarran, a gentleman of some note in the county of Renfrew. She is said to have been but eleven years of age. It is probable that hysterical affections may have occasioned her rhapsodies to proceed from real illusion, which would account in some measure for the contortions of her body. Yet, she seems to have displayed an artifice above her years, and an address superior to her situation. This mixed impostor quarrelled with one of the maid-servants, KATE CAMPBELL, which brought an angry retort from the Highland maiden. This was the prelude to the whole tragical imposition. It was not long till Miss SHAW began her work. She charged KATE CAMPBELL (August, 1696) with being a witch, along with several others, among whom was the

celebrated MAGGY LANG, a midwife, in the parish of Erskine, an aged woman, pious, and, according to the concurrent testimony of tradition, of very superior talents. She declared she was tormented by these witches, was thrown into strange contortions. She put out of her mouth egg-shells, feathers of wild and bones of tame fowl, hair of various colours, hot cinders, crooked pins, &c. This continued for ten months.

The whole country was alarmed. Noblemen, gentlemen, ministers, judges, lawyers, and physicians, visited the diabolical and unhappy girl. The witches were brought to a trial, and condemned to be hanged, or rather half hanged, and burned. The ministers of the Presbytery joined heartily in the prosecution, held fast-days, and dealt with the prisoners. Not a voice was raised throughout Scotland in behalf of the poor injured creatures. Philosophy was extinct. It was even said that some of the prisoners confessed their guilt. No wonder, when they saw the contortions of Miss SHAW, and were told by everybody they conversed with that they were witches. They were so worn out and silly, they were actually in the belief they were witches, and so confessed. But it was strange that the ministers of the church, who had so recently come through the fiery ordeal of a bloody and cruel persecution, did not lift up their voice in behalf of the poor wretches.

The seven prisoners were taken to the place of execution on the forenoon of the 10th of June, 1697, and hanged for a short time, and then cut down, their bodies placed among a quantity of peats, on which was thrown a barrel of tar, and so burned to ashes. The place was at the foot of Maxwellton Street, where it crosses George Street. A vast concourse of people

attended the execution, amongst whom was the most of the nobility and gentry of the county, together with the members of Presbytery, who were appointed to attend. After the lapse of a few years, the Bargarran family began to think shame of the whole transaction, collected all the books of the witch narrative, and gave them the same law as the witches—burned them. We have now the pleasing task of recording the redeeming qualities in the character of the bewitched Miss SHAW of Bargarran. She was married to the Rev. Mr. MILLER, of Kilmaurs, about 1718; and he died while on a visit to his wife's family, at Erskine, sometime previous to 1725. Miss SHAW (we shall still continue the name), according to Dr. YOUNG, had acquired a remarkable dexterity in spinning fine yarn, and conceived the idea of making it into fine thread. At first she executed the whole process with her own hands, and bleached her materials on a large slate, in one of the windows of the house. She succeeded so well that Lady BLANTYRE took some of it to Bath, and disposed of it to some lace manufacturers in that city. Through the medium of a relation who had been in Holland, she obtained a full knowledge of the process. Twisting and twining machines were obtained, and the business prospered. In course of time a knowledge of the manufacture was obtained by a Mr. POLLOCK, in Paisley, who laid the foundation of the Paisley manufacture of thread. About the close of last century, the value annually amounted to £60,000, since which it has become almost entirely superseded by cotton thread, which at present employs a great number of factories, and the estimated value in 1850 was about £250,000. Considerable additions are being made to several of

the factories. The thread is sold on small bobbins, of which more than sixty millions are made annually, from birch wood.

The two largest factories are the Seedhills (J. & J. CLARK), and Ferguslie (J. & P. COATS). The machinery in these factories is of the most ingenious description, and beautifully finished, and altogether the invention of the proprietors or their workmen; and the inside view of the works is one of the finest sights conceivable, whether as regards the finish of the machinery, or the staid and regular attention of the workers. The thread is made of the best cotton yarn, and nothing can exceed the neatness of the filled bobbins, or the exquisite and beautiful manner in which they are parcelled up. With nothing is a stranger more struck than the fine cleanly and healthy looks of the female workers. Clothed with drugget petticoats, and light coloured *jupes*, with good shoes and stockings, and shawls, they have a fine, and, we may add, an excellent moral appearance. Twenty or thirty years ago, the females were hard and irregularly kept at work. As the demand might be, they often had to work till one of the clock in the morning. At clipping, and even in warehouses, this was customary also. Now, these factory girls are at a clean employment, and work from 6 o'clock a.m. to 6 p.m. Of course they have plenty of time to learn the duties of housewifery, and even dance a little occasionally, which now in our day is a good, healthy, moral amusement.

The following letter was received by the author, from a gentleman belonging to Paisley, resident now in Paris, who furnished the Paisley thread report for the French exhibition,—a gentleman eminently qualified,

from his extensive knowledge of manufacturing affairs, to do justice to the subject:—

PARIS, 21st March, 1857.

DEAR SIR,—I have your note; and on consulting a rough sketch in my possession, I hasten to send you the following details of the Paisley thread trade, being a portion of a report furnished to the French Ministry of Commerce, in 1855, with a view to show the importance of this branch of trade, and the beneficial effects which would result to the French people from the introduction of our manufactures at moderate duties.

In the year 1722 sprung up the manufacture of linen sewing thread. This important article was first brought into notice by a lady residing near Paisley, who by her dexterity in spinning and dressing thread, created a considerable trade, which was soon followed up by wholesale manufacturers; and about the year 1800 this manufacture of linen thread was almost entirely superseded by the introduction of cotton thread, the manufacture of which, by the energy and perseverance of those engaged in it, has now become a branch of the highest importance. Some of the houses engaged in this trade have their origin as far back as 1750, while others, such as the Messrs. COATS, whose magnificent establishment gives employment to upwards of 1000 workmen, are of comparatively recent date. The value of thread manufactured about the beginning of the century was £60,000 in one year. At present it amounts to about £400,000. There are ten factories, employing 700 men, and 2300 women. These factories produce annually about 11,000,000 bobbins of thread, from 100 to 300 yards on each, value about £400,000. By many ingenious inventions for spinning, reeling, &c., this manufacture has been brought to a high state of perfection, and may be pronounced the most generally prosperous branch of Paisley trade, yielding uniformly fair wages to the workpeople, and fair profits to the masters. A remarkable feature is the enormous consumpt of wood for bobbins, which amounts to about 13,000 tons annually, value £13,000.

In addition to the above, I may remark that Paisley thread was exhibited in Paris, in the Universal Exhibition of 1855, by

five manufacturers, viz., Messrs. COATS, CLARK, CARLILE, CLAPPERTON, and KERR & CLARK. The exhibition of this section was beautifully got up, each case displaying elegant and tasteful arrangements of bobbins, in the form of pillars, pyramids, &c. In fact, no part of the British section was more attractive, particularly to the ladies of Paris, who prize "fil d'Ecosse," or Scotch thread, above every other. The jury awarded a medal to each exhibitor, and expressed their opinion strongly in favour of our manufacture, both for its excellence and its extreme cheapness, the difference between Paisley and French thread being about 30 per cent.

CHAPTER XIV.

MECHANICAL IMPROVEMENTS.

WE have stated elsewhere that the weavers of Paisley are quite unlike any other weaving body in the kingdom, who generally confine themselves to one particular branch, whereas the Paisley weaver is always on the hunt for some new branch ; and when a manufacturer begins a new branch or fabric, the weavers are ever ready to embrace the employment. They convert their looms or weaving machinery into a shape to fit the new work, and although it possibly does not fit very well at the first, it is not long till their ingenuity and experience surmounts every obstacle, greatly through the mutual assistance of one another. For instance, ALEX. BUCHANAN, the inventor of *chenille*, had many difficulties to contend with, but surmounted them all by gathering ideas from his brethren of the loom, and from Mr. TAYLOR, the most successful maker of *chenille* in the kingdom. Originally, the weaver wrought with his hands, throwing the shuttle into the shed at the one side and catching it at the other. This was pretty easy upon a narrow web, but with a broad piece it was hard work. At the time there was some difficulty, but it soon got into quite an improved state ; and now a lay with ten shuttles dashes away like a gentleman's gate, and with the utmost facility. It was not long, however, till the weavers had lays going with five and even six boxes, every box with a shuttle, with two ingenious

cranks at each end of the lay, which played the boxes out and in, under the guidance of the weaver's hand, by means of a rod attached to the catch of the lay. This was a capital improvement. The cranks were rather difficult to keep in order. Whilst the one on the left was doing well, the other on the right was oftentimes quite wayward, and broke sometimes, which was a serious loss, as they were pretty dear.

One night, a young lad was working away quite fearlessly, when, alas! one of his cranks broke, and his heart was almost broken also. He got off his loom, and in a most dejected state was mourning his loss, when lo, a brilliant idea struck him. He went and procured four small pulleys, fixed them in a position to turn his boxes, and so produced an invention the most important for the fly that possibly could be conceived. And so it continued for some years; but everything is in a state of mutation. It was superseded by the "ten-box lay."

In fact, it would be both tiresome and endless to recapitulate the curious inventions in reference to weaving that have taken place in Paisley these 60 years past. These inventions are as often to be ascribed to the necessities of the weaver as any other cause.

Much lies in the selection of managers of a work. For instance, one of our most successful manufacturers—Mr. KERR—has been very fortunate in his selection of those who have the superintendence of his works. Now, the power of mind to select the proper tools is genius of the highest order. It was this power of selection that gained Marengo, and Lodi, and Wagram, and to BONAPARTE the empire; and it was Sir ROWLAND HILL, and Generals CRAWFORD and PICTON

that made the Duke of WELLINGTON. There are many such as Mr. ROBERT KERR ; we only select him to illustrate more clearly our philosophy. Since the commencement of the shawl trade, Paisley owes much to the ancient town of Dunfermline. Their training in the heavy harness work made them a valuable acquisition, and none more so than Messrs. ROXBURGH & SON, whose inventive genius and practical knowledge has contributed much to raise the character of Paisley, both at home and abroad.

In one instance, Paisley has been most fortunate in having been possessed of an excellent helpmate to her commercial and manufacturing industry, namely, in the talents of CHARLES JAMES STEWART—father and son—writing-masters. Sixty years ago, the father was distinguished as one of the finest writers in Scotland ; and at the present day, and for the last forty years, the son has been equally distinguished, and has brought forward a crowd of most excellent penmen, who have figured in their own locality, as well as in various portions of our extensive empire, mainly on their character in this most useful art ; and every year, we are happy to say, he is adding to the number.

Mr. JOHN HENNING, the celebrated modeller, was a native of Paisley, and was a joiner. Very early in life, he commenced modelling for amusement, and arrived at such perfection that he was induced to go to Edinburgh, and his fame increasing, from thence he went to London, and became one of the first artists in that city.

FILLANS, the sculptor, although not a native of Paisley, spent his boyhood there, and evinced those talents, whilst still a youth, which have raised him to

an eminence among British sculptors; and we may be allowed to presume that his premature death put a stop to a still higher career in the noble art in which he was enthusiastically engaged.

NOEL PATON, too, was engaged here for some time, in his very early days; and he also evinced those talents which have since raised his character as one of the very first of British painters.

Mr. MORRISON, Orchard Street, is the only jacquard machine maker in Paisley; and he has been very successful in making improvements on the original French machine, so as to adapt it to the Paisley shawl manufacture. In the shawl manufacture the lashes have to be drawn twice; and the great difficulty was to make the cylinder of the jacquard revolve or return back, so as to make the cards work twice, as was done by the lashes. This difficulty he has obviated by a very simple but correct method. In a double harness, two combs were used, the one above the other. This he has altered by placing the two combs side by side. This, with a great number of minor improvements, simplifying both the appearance and the movements, renders the jacquard one of the most complete machines in the kingdom.

Our limits will not allow us to give a detail of the numberless inventions which have been made to facilitate our manufactures, and we will conclude with the following.

Within these few months, a new invention has been brought out by Mr. DAVID FALCONER, joiner, Causey-side. It is a pump for forcing water, air, or gases. This it will do with these elements to almost any height. 1st, there are two forked legs of an oscillating pipe. These legs are seated on two collapsible cham-

bers, composed of leather or India rubber. There is a valve in each of these chambers, opening inwards, and communicating with the pipe descending into the fluid to be raised in each fork. There is also a valve opening upwards; consequently, as the pipe is made to oscillate, the water is drawn into the chambers, and is forced upwards or onwards at each oscillation of the pipe. This will raise the water to 30 or 100 feet; but above he proposes two plungers, having valves opening upwards, to be substituted for the collapsible vessels. The pipe with the forked ends is about four feet in height, and is connected to the upright pipe by a flexible India-rubber pipe, which allows it to oscillate. The oscillation is produced by a crank, driven by a small wheel, and if necessary, power can be applied. The idea is taken from the operation of bellows, and is an invention which will be in many cases an incalculable advantage. The whole apparatus is simple, and it is scarcely possible that it can go out of order. A $\frac{2}{8}$ inch pipe will throw 800 gallons per hour. A $2\frac{1}{2}$ inch pipe will throw 3600 gallons per hour.

CHAPTER XV.

EMINENT MEN.

CLERGY.—One characteristic of Paisley has been its having at all times been distinguished for having ministers eminent for piety and learning, and all the other qualities which may be termed social and kind morality. One of her most eminent men was the celebrated PATRICK ADAMSON, afterwards Archbishop of St. Andrews. His episcopal propensities have not left him in so clear a point of view as we could have wished; but still he was a great man; and we are proud that one of our ministers became the 'Primate of Scotland.

ROBERT MILLER, minister of the Abbey, we have already noticed for his distinguished talents, and for his usefulness in a comparatively rude age. Coming down the stream of time till the last age, we had Dr. BOOG, one of the most clever preachers of the Scottish pulpit; Dr. FERRIER, of the Secession Church; and PATRICK HUTCHESON, of the Relief; together with Dr. SNODGRASS, of the Establishment, and Dr. WOTHERSPOON, afterwards Principal of the College of Princeton, New Jersey—all men eminent in their day.

At the present day, Paisley stands as eminent as ever; and although the Disruption scattered the stars for a time, still, the natural course of events has gradually gathered together all the elements of good preachers, and instead of destroying the equilibrium of Scotch

Presbyterianism, has only put an edge upon men's minds, and made them more ready to become rivals in their acquaintance with the social condition of their adherents, which had become a great want in latter times.

MEDICAL.—In this particular Paisley has been well supplied; and from the nature of her sedentary employments, the call upon their services has been great, and oftentimes their characteristic humanity has been of essential service in times of great distress.

THE BAR.—The gentlemen of this class have been at all times esteemed rather martinets in their profession; and Paisley being in a great manner the county town, they require an education of a superior kind. All which they generally acquire.

Of other individuals of superior talents which the town has produced, the most eminent is JOHN WILSON—the celebrated CHRISTOPHER NORTH—who was born in the Townhead of Paisley. Of the talents of this great man it is unnecessary for us to say anything, as his fame is of world-wide celebrity. He received his education when a boy partly in Paisley and partly at the parish of Mearns, under Dr. M'LATCHIE; but his father dying when he was quite a boy, he was never much in Paisley, his mother having removed to Edinburgh. His uncle, Mr. SYME, came and resided in the house at Townhead, and Mr. WILSON, when he was a young lad, came and stopped with his uncle in the summer months, and went a fishing in the waters of his favourite Mearns. It will, therefore, be sec

in his occasional notices of himself, that his recollections are more vivid in reference to the Mearns and the Cumberland Lakes than to Paisley, although he had a warm heart towards his native town. He was of a noble nature, and had a noble appearance, as will be seen by the inimitable bust of him, by FILLANS, which rivals ancient art.

ROBERT TANNAHILL, the universally known lyrical poet, was born in the west end of Paisley, in the year 1774. His father was a weaver, and had, when young, come to Paisley for the sake of his trade. He long occupied a house of his own in Queen Street, and brought up a large family, mostly sons. The characteristics of the family were of the most exemplary kind. Here, under the guidance of a truly good man, they all acquired a much superior knowledge than what generally fell to the lot of the general neighbourhood, and all continued through life to evince their good training. It is not our intention to say anything of the poetical talents of ROBERT, as it could not be anything but the repetition of an often-told tale. We will content ourselves with speaking only about some absurd stories in reference to his progress through life. And what we may mention is from personal knowledge.

His songs are mostly what is termed love songs; and some parties infer from this that he was a great lover, and that, from some indications in one or two of the songs, he had been disappointed, and of course broken-hearted. That he was a genuine lover of mankind we at once admit; but in the common acceptation given in love songs, we at once deny. He never was broken-hearted in this particular in his life, and the whole story is nonsense.

Another story, published in a celebrated London magazine, is, that a party had visited Dunblane, and had called upon "JESSIE," and tell a long rigmarole story of a conversation they had with her in reference to the poet. Now, the fact is that ROBERT TANNAHILL never was in Dunblane in his life. JESSIE was wholly ideal, and the song was suggested by the old song, the "Bob o' Dunblane."

Another story, published in a Canadian newspaper, states that he was rejected by JESSIE, while he was working in Dunblane; that JESSIE afterwards became the paramour of a Lothian gentleman, and died of a broken heart. Now, all these stories so got up are measureless lies—not even the shadow of truth in them.

Others state that he was borne down by poverty. Now, this is equally false. He never was poor, nor reduced to poverty. He had always more than he needed, and something to spare, which he often did kindly to the needful.

ROBERT TANNAHILL was a most upright man. Addicted to no vice, most enthusiastically fond of Scottish Song, well acquainted with the literature of the day. Although modest he was cheerful, fond of conversation, and we will most unhesitatingly and emphatically add his conversational powers were good, and at all times interesting.

WILLIAM MOTHERWELL was born in Stirlingshire, at Moor-mills on the water of Carron; but came to Paisley when a youth, and spent a number of years. Here he began those rich effusions that have raised his fame as one of our National Poets; and he too was cut off in the prime of life. Lamented universally, not only by

the lovers of melody, but by all who knew him as the warm hearted and kind friend of humanity, and as a genuine lover of his much beloved Scotland.

WILLIAM FINLAY, the next on our list, was a poet of no mean powers; was possessed of a curious subdued humour, and otherwise a very interesting man. We have however a host of poets, whose forgotten pieces are many of them truly excellent; but as we cannot give specimens, have resolved to collect them for a separate publication accompanied by Biographical Notices.

The following is a very interesting notice of Mr. ALEXANDER WILSON, the Ornithologist and Poet, and although it leaves his character in a rather equivocal point of view, still the indigence in which he was placed, together with the very lenient sentence of the Sheriff, shows that much feeling was adapted in his favour; and as far as we know the fines were not exacted. The Biographer states, that it was the great cause of WILSON's emigration; but this we rather doubt. WILSON was much engaged with the Reformers of that period, (the two Mitchells in particular), who both went to America, as well as a number of others :—

“No point in the history of a man of genius, can either be uninteresting or unworthy of attention. The rough features of his character are softened down by time, and the prejudice of his admirers, and a discussion of these can have no tendency, or little indeed, to darken the lightness of his glory. The star of light that shines upon us nightly, soon ceases to draw our attention; but when it sweeps from its ‘high estate,’ a new curiosity is kindled, and a more endurable impression given; the strayings of a man of *ingine* bind down our attention, and frequently show us

those signs of vigour which are afterwards realized in those splendid works that shed a brilliancy, long and lasting, over their fame. It may be generous of a biographer to treat with a light hand, the errors of his author, but I deny that it is beneficial; it may be a kindly feeling, but it is just to no party. From the annals of such are formed, in a great measure, our knowledge of human nature, and their mistakes may teach as forcible a lesson as the fair path of their uprightness. Wilson is a name not unknown in this his native place, and which now bears such a goodly blossom as fully to make it safe against the influence of bad report. I have thought that a Paisley Magazine would be a fit medium to give to the public a brief notice of an error into which Wilson fell, like many of the great family of poets to which he belongs, and an abridgement of the prosecution that followed, which is said justly, by some of his biographers, to have been one cause of his crossing the 'Atlantic dark and deep,' where a harvest was awaiting him which he has gathered in with a fulness and a success that makes it impossible for his renown ever to perish.

"The cause of this prosecution was a poem entitled 'The Shark, or Lang Mills Detected,' which was an unsuccessful attempt at personal pasquinade. His genius was not suitable for satire; his spirit was untameable, and gave way to a raking up of all the scurrilous words his native language furnished. It would draw no injury to his fame to let 'Lang Mills Detectit,' do over on for ever. In it the character of a most respectable gentleman of the name of Sharpe was treated with unjustifiable severity. Wilson enclosed this poem in a letter of the following tenor :

" 'The enclosed poem, by particular circumstances, has fallen into my hands. The author, I can certainly assure you, is on the eve of concluding a bargain for the MS. The offered price is Five Pounds.

" 'If you know any person who will advance Five Guineas, the Manuscript from which is copied the enclosed, shall, with the most solemn regard to justice and secrecy, be immediately destroyed, and buried in perpetual oblivion. If not, three days shall publish it to the world.

" 'I give you three hours to deliberate on this offer, by which

time I expect a final and determined answer, addressed to A. B., to lie in J. Neilson's, bookseller, Paisley, till called for. If the price or copy is not received by four o'clock, this present afternoon, I can no longer prevent the author from proceeding with his production, as he may think proper.

“ ‘ I am, Sir, your well-wisher, (Signed) A. B.
 “ ‘ Tuesday, half-past 11 o'clock A.M.’

“ With the conduct that becomes every man in such circumstances, the gentleman returned no answer to this letter, but immediately afterwards presented a petition to the Sheriff, in which, after dwelling somewhat legally on the immoral tendency of such productions, he states that he has sufficient evidence to suspect, ‘ that these verses were penned and transmitted by Alexander Wilson, Weaver, in Paisley, a person well known for his productions in this way,’ and praying for warrant to apprehend the said Alexander Wilson for examination, and upon his being convicted, to imprison him, and also to prohibit him from publishing the poem, &c.

“ Wilson either having left Paisley to avoid those gentlemen of the law vulgarly called *beagles*, or upon business, could not be found. Mr. James Orr, Sheriff-substitute, forthwith issued a warrant, shewing that information had been given to him, that Alexander Wilson had written or assisted in the composition of this poem, and also that he had formerly granted warrant for his apprehension, but that he could not be found. The warrant then goes on to certify unto all those within the said Sheriff's bounds, that if they aid or assist in any way in the publication of said poem, that they will be considered as art and part in the said crime, and so punished, and concludes with recommending to all sheriffs and other magistrates, to prevent the publication of it within their bounds, and to grant warrant for apprehending Wilson, that he might be examined relative to said matters. Whether Wilson was apprehended or not, or whether he gave himself up voluntarily, I do not know, but the day following there is a declaration of Wilson before the Sheriff on the subject, wherein he acknowledged himself to be the writer of the letter and the copy of the poem enclosed, which were sent to the gentlemen : but declined mentioning the name of the author of the poem : at

whose instigation it was written : and in what manner the money required from the gentleman for its suppression was to be applied. He says, besides, that the sentiments contained in the letter were the sentiments of the author of the poem : these proceedings took place in the month of May, and in the month of June following, an action was raised against A. Wilson, at the instance of Sharpe, with concurrence of the Fiscal : in which, after tracing the previous procedure, and narrating with true legal prolixity, the heinousness of the crime, and its incendiary tendency, they conclude for payment of £50, by Wilson, to the Complainer as damages and assythment : that Wilson should beg pardon of God and the Complainer in open court—declare the insinuations contained in the poem to be false and malicious—that he should be fined in the sum of £10, payable to the Fiscal, as a terror to evil doers—and lastly, that he should be imprisoned till the payment of the several sums. From different interlocutors pronounced by Sheriff Orr, in this action, in the month of July, 1792, it is shown that Wilson failed to compare, although legally cited, ‘and on the defender’s failure to appear, Finds, him contumacious : Fines and americiates him in the sum of Ten Pounds Scots to the Procurator Fiscal of Court, for his contumacy : Grants warrant for imprisoning him, &c.’ That Wilson on account of this Interlocutor, presented a petition to the Sheriff, denying that he had any intention of contemning the Court, but that the person employed by him to take up his defence, had neglected to do so, on the day of compareance, and praying for a remission of part of the fine : and that the Sheriff would nominate certain persons to take up his defence, as those he had previously employed had declined to do it, for reasons best known to themselves.

“Upon the 30th August following, there is an Interlocutor, where the Sheriff, in terms of the petition, appointed James Walkinshaw and John Snodgrass, Procurators of Court, to conduct Wilson’s defence. Upon the 13th September, there is a notice of answers being lodged for Wilson, he being present himself. The substance of these answers must be allowed to be sufficiently farfetched. In them he goes on to state, that he considered the gentleman as an honest, useful, and respectable indi-

vidual, and that the character ascribed to him in public estimation, was diametrically opposed to that of the hero of the poem in question. As to the circumstance of his sending a copy of the poem enclosed in the letter already quoted, he denies that there is any symptom in it of a desire to extort money, farther than the natural one of an author wishing to dispose of his work to the best advantage, and that he applied to Mr. Sharpe purely on that principle. After discussing at some length, the relation of an author and the public, and his right to write anonymously or not; he mentions that when he understood the gentleman considered it in the light of a lampoon, he took every measure in his power to prevent its publicity: in short, that he had refused several offers for the manuscript, and it was only in consequence of the foolish and determined severity of this prosecution, that he had been prevailed upon to consent to its publication.

“To reply to this, the pursuer endeavours to make out the identity of the hero of the poem to himself from the allusions in it, and that during this action, Wilson had, in utter contempt of Court, published this poem. After this the Sheriff pronounced the following Interlocutor, of date the 22nd January, 1793, in which several findings relate to the proceedings against Wilson in the summary action raised by the pursuer, and concludes thus, ‘ Finds that in this publication, in the face of my Interdict, the Defender has been guilty of a very aggravated contempt of the Court, therefore grants warrant to

officers of Court, jointly and severally to search for and apprehend the person of Alexander Wilson, Defender, wherever he may be found within this Shire, and to incarcerate him in the Tolbooth of Paisley, therein to remain for the space of fourteen days, and ay and until he find good and sufficient caution to the extent of three hundred merks Scots for his good behaviour for two years to come, requiring hereby the Magistrates of Paisley and keepers of their prison to receive and detain him accordingly. Farther, ordains the defender instantly to deliver up to the Clerk of Court every copy of the said poem in his possession or to which he has access. And further, to answer upon oath, against next Court day, such questions as I shall see cause to put to him in order to discover where any copies of said

poem printed and published contrary to my Interdict, may be found. And I further ordain, that before the said defender shall be set at liberty, he shall be conducted in custody to the Market place of Paisley, and shall there, with his own hands, commit to the flames the whole copies of said publication that shall have been delivered up by him, or otherwise collected, excepting always the copy libelled on, and declares that when this Interlocutor has been fulfilled, the Sheriff will then resume the consideration of this process.—(Signed) **JAMES ORR.'**

"Wilson was imprisoned in terms of this, for we find a petition by him dated 4th February, 1793, as prisoner in the Tolbooth of Paisley, stating that on account of the influence of those to whom he was opposed, many persons of respectability, who would, in other circumstances, have willingly befriended him, were hindered from coming forward to his support, and therefore he had no other caution to offer than John Bell, boiler to John King of Greenlaw, his brother in-law, and praying that his character and responsibility might be examined into, preparatory to his becoming security for Wilson.

"Upon the 5th February, Wilson was examined—when he declined to say at whose desire the poem had been printed—declared that the poem was sold by James Sclater, stationer—denied knowing how many copies were thrown off—and said he had no copies of the poem. There is a marking of the date, the 5th February, shewing that a petition had been lodged by Wilson, and a letter mentioning that he had got two copies of the poem. An Interlocutor of the same date, ordains Wilson to be carried in custody, upon the 6th, to the head of the outer stairs of the tolbooth of Paisley and then and there to commit to the flames, with his own hands, the said two copies. Of this date also there is a certification by John Peers, Depute Clerk of Court, to the effect that two copies of this poem had been lodged by Wilson, and a bond with sufficient caution. Upon the 6th February, there is a report of the Clerk of Court, in these words:—'The Clerk of Court reports that this forenoon at eleven o'clock, he delivered up the two copies of the poem in his hands to the defender, who, with his own hands, committed the same to the flames as ordained by the Interlocutor,' &c.

"The Sheriff, after this procedure, assigned the 14th of May following for pronouncing the final sentence in this action, and ordained Wilson to be present. The terms of the sentence were— ' Finds that the defender has committed the wrongs charged, and that his conduct, during the proceedings, has tended to aggravate and not to alleviate the charge. Therefore fines and americiates him in the sum of five pounds five shillings sterling to the private complainer, and in the sum of two pounds twelve shillings and sixpence to the Procurator Fiscal of Court. Finds the defender liable in expenses, modifies the same to £3 10s. sterling, and decerns against him therefor, and for the extract conform to the Clerk's certificate. Grants warrant for imprisoning him within the tolbooth of Paisley until payment of these sums, and authorises the Clerk of Court to issue extracts immediately. Reserving to the Court to alleviate or remit the fine to the Procurator Fiscal in case the defender shall, within eight days from this date, give a letter to the private complainer—containing suitable acknowledgments for the wrong done him of which he is hereby convicted.' "

The resolution grinders of that time were not so ready as those of the present day. We have heard the late Mr. JAMES PATERSON, who was coeval with WILSON, state, that WILSON was the most expert writer of reports and resolutions that he ever witnessed, and that too in a style of elegance most astonishing to his compatriots: his companionship with these men we believe was the true cause of his emigration. We may mention that when the Clerk of Court delivered the poetic libel into his hands to be burnt at the Tolbooth stair head, he allowed him to stoop down so that no person noticed the transaction. When any person from this town called upon him in America, he always expressed his sorrow and regret for having any hand in those satirical libels which he had written, particularly for that for which he had to suffer.

Amongst those who have both distinguished themselves and the town of their birth, we cannot omit the late Mr. THOMAS CRICHTON. Mr. CRICHTON was born in the year 1760, and early showed marks of a very superior mind; and this continued to develop itself in after life. He was long Governor and Teacher of the Town's Hospital: was an elder of the High Church, and Session Clerk of that Parish. During his manhood he ardently pursued literary pursuits, and although it was a period above all others in our history for eminent men, he distanced all his compeers. He was in habits of intimacy with ALEXANDER WILSON the Ornithologist, and wrote a biography of that celebrated man, which is distinguished for elegance and kindly feeling. He wrote also a sketch of the Life of Dr. FINDLAY, but his best production was the "Library," a poem which is deservedly held in the greatest estimation, and which is highly characteristic of a man of genius.

As a man, he was one of the great landmarks of society; pious, unostentatious, and of the most sterling integrity; honest, although lenient in his observations on men and manners, and throughout life an excellent and useful member of society. He was long spared in his usefulness, and died in 1844, in the 84th year of his age.

JOHN LOVE. We had almost forgot to mention this most respectable of our citizens. He was born in the Parish of Kilmalcolm in 1747, but came to Paisley in his infancy along with his parents.

In his youth he engaged as a manufacturer, but afterwards engaged in mercantile pursuits, and became a most extensive commercial shipper, particularly to

South America, and at one time had realised a handsome fortune; but unfaithful agency blasted all his fair and honest prospects, and he was reduced to insolvency in his old age.

A number of friends, however, rallied round, and secured him a competency for life. Mr. Love was a benevolent man, and was ready at all times to suggest improvements for the amelioration of the condition of all who came within the sphere of his knowledge. He was one of the very first who took an active part in the formation of the Paisley Library, and continued through life to give it his active countenance.

That beautiful spot known as Hope Temple Gardens, owing to his ardent love for landscape gardening, and from the fertility of the soil and from the best selection of plants and flowers, and trees of the rarest kind, has become one of the finest in Scotland, and is a general resort during summer. Mr. Love, after living happily for many years, died in 1828, in his 81st year.

CHAPTER XVI.

SUBURBS OF PAISLEY.

WILLIAMSBURGH is a village contiguous to the Newtown, and is occupied mostly by weavers. A barracks was erected here about twenty three years ago, adequate to the accomodation of five hundred soldiers. Here is also situated the Dickson Charity School.

CHARLESTON is a village a little to the south of the town, has been mostly all built within the last twenty five years, and is also chiefly occupied by weavers.

The great cause for the rise of this village, was the want of weavers' accomodation in the town, It contains a population of 4000 inhabitants, mostly engaged in the shawl trade, in one way or another.

This village is much famed for its political opinions, so much so that it is generally called the Republic.

They hold meetings, and are in possession of a bass drum and a small band of music ; which is very useful in a political point of view, and the least dangerous and the most innocent way of expressing political opinion.

MAXWELLTON was built about one hundred and ten years ago, and owes its celebrity as being the first place in Scotland where the silk trade began, and owed its rise to Mr. HUMPHREY FULTON. This gentleman made the first silk web in Maxwellton in the year 1759,

and brought the manufacture to the greatest perfection. And he was followed in the same place by his son-in-law, Mr. JOHN M'KERRELL, who continued the same business for 70 years. Maxwellton was long a most flourishing place. After the silk went down in 1785, Messrs. FULTON and POLLOCK began the muslin trade, both figured and plain, and carried it on in a most extensive scale; they afterwards recommenced the silk, and continued it for many years, and a stranger visiting Maxwellton from 1759 till 1830, would have supposed it to be one of the most flourishing places in the kingdom.

FERGUSLIE, another village in the neighbourhood of Maxwellton, a little to the west, may properly speaking be considered as a continuation of that village, and for long was solely occupied by weavers. For many years however, it has become noticeable, from the large thread works of the Messrs. COATS, which form an unmistakeable landmark in the scene.

MILLERSTON, another village a little to the west of Ferguslie, is also another weaving village; old, however, and of a very decayed look, and has all the appearance of one of our old Scottish villages.

ELDERSLIE,

Situated about a mile and half from Millerston, on the road to Johnstone, is, exclusive of that town, the most populous village in the neighbourhood. Its inhabitants are mostly weavers and cotton spinners,

together with a number employed at the neighbouring coal works and quarries. The Glasgow, Paisley, and Ardrossan Canal stretches along the north side of the village; it greatly facilitates its intercourse with the neighbouring towns. Its inhabitants were long supplied with water from what was termed the bore. About fifty years ago, in boring for coal the design was given up, but if they did not find coal they got plenty of excellent water, which ascended the bore and supplied the inhabitants at the rate of five gallons per minute. This continued for forty years, but again a few years since, when putting down a shaft, the bore and spring was cut, and the supply of water ended.

This is an interesting village, from being the birth place of the renowned Sir WILLIAM WALLACE. The house stands at the west end of the village, upon the site of the old house, and which itself is a very venerable relic of the olden time. Wallace's Tree, which is said to have sheltered the hero when hunted by his enemies, stood about the centre of the village, or rather having stood there for many hundred years, began, although of uncommon girth, to decay, and fell down during the storms of winter, leaving not a wreck behind.

QUARRELTON is a village about a mile west of Elderslie, and is peopled mostly by colliers. It is pleasantly situated on a rising ground above Johnstone, and from its situation on a great thoroughfare, and its proximity to Johnstone, exhibits a very busy scene.

JOHNSTONE,

Which is still included in the Abbey Parish, *quod civilia*, is a most astonishing and striking illustration

of the effect of manufactures, in originating and increasing towns. About sixty years ago, near that bridge across the Black Cart, which, till lately, gave the name of the Brig of Johnstone to the town, merely a few mean cottages were to be seen, where now is a regularly laid out town, consisting of two large squares, many considerable streets, and numerous public works. This town is about three and a half miles west of Paisley, and about eleven from Glasgow. Its situation is very pleasant, being contiguous to the Black Cart, which runs round the sides of it. It probably had continued still to be the "Brig of Johnstone," had it not been for the exertions of the public spirited proprietor. His influence and example excited a spirit of industry among the inhabitants which his first example gathered together. These he still continued to cherish, and the spirit which he infused has continued to manifest itself in every possible variety, in the increasing wealth and prosperity of its enlightened and enterprising merchants and tradesman.

The extension of this town is not equalled in the annals of Scottish history. It began to be feued in the year 1781, when it contained only ten persons. Towards the end of 1782, nine houses of the town of Johnstone were built, two others were being erected, and ground on which forty were to be built was feued. In 1792, the inhabitants amounted in number to 1434, in 1811 to 3647, in 1818 to 5000, and in 1831 to 5617.

As the introduction of the manufacture of cotton yarn by mill machinery, led to the founding of Johnstone, so has the extension of the same manufacture contributed to its rapid increase and present

prosperity. Within the boundary of this place are situated not less than eleven mills. The town is built on a very regular plan—Houston Square in the centre of the town is all built up on every side. There is to the southward, a large area intended to be a second square, as well as a market place, which is already beginning to be enclosed with neat houses. The High Street, from Dick's Bridge on the east to Johnstone Bridge on the west, is all built up; as are also many other streets branching off at right angles from both its sides. The houses are generally from two to three stories in height, and handsomely composed of good mason work. The shops are numerous, some of them elegant, and in general, well stocked with varieties of excellent commodities.

The civil polity of the town is managed by a Committee elected annually by the feuars. A Justice of Peace Court is held in the Assembly Rooms, on the first Friday of every month. In Johnstone there are a due proportion of highly respectable writers and medical practitioners, a Lodge of Free Masons, and various booksellers and printers, and all other appendages which a large burgh town is generally accommodated with.

In former times, Johnstone had an annual Fair about midsummer, and indeed has it yet, which is well attended; but at the time in our mind's eye, they had horse races which were attended by people from all the country round, and from Paisley especially by thousands; this assemblage of such a heterogeneous multitude was somewhat troublesome to the peaceable inhabitants, as all manner of fighting was indulged in, the neighbouring village of Quarrellton supplying a

large number of ready combatants. This however is nearly all over, as the races at Paisley swallow up all the sporting world. The Fair is called the Thorn Fair. The reason for this name is that when the Plague was in Glasgow in ancient times, the various dealers throughout the county made a tryst to meet at the Thorn, a village about one fourth of a mile to the east of Johnstone, and they were so well pleased with their tryst that it continued for some centuries; and when Johnstone began to assume the form of a town, a transference of the fair took place, but still the name was continued.

All that is wanting for Johnstone, is to be made a burgh town, and it would not only add to its dignity but at the same time introduce good government, produce regularity in all its functions, and be the means of securing that peace and good order, so necessary in a large and increasing community.

There are three churches in Johnstone, namely, a Chapel of Ease, which ought to be made a Parish Church—a United Presbyterian, and a Free Church. The Chapel has a fine spire, and is an imitation of the famous spire at Lincoln, built by Sir Christopher Wren. Since the erection of this spire not less than five different bells have been its inmates, all of which of good materials, as well as excellent tone, have been rendered unfit for duty by fracture, occasioned, it is said, by the confined space in which they were hung.

A pleasant story is told of a curious clock maker in Paisley, who was taken up to the bell to give his opinion. When he had examined it thoroughly—he very slowly said it was a *She* bell. “What makes you

say that?" said one present. "Because," said he, "it has *owre lang a tongue*."

There are four very interesting villages about 4 miles to the south east of Paisley, all in the Abbey Parish, viz., Nitshill, Hurlet, Corsemill and Dovescothall. Nitshill has some coalworks, amongst which the Victoria Pit is one of the very first in Scotland, whether considered in the depth of its shaft or the fine arrangements of its workings, and the strength and power of its machinery.

HURLET is chiefly occupied by colliers, but there are also an extensive alum work in the village. The inhabitants of *Corsemill* and *Dovescothall* are generally employed in the neighbouring bleachfields and print-fields, although numbers of them are employed in the cotton mills in Barrhead.

BRAES OF GLENIFER.—These Braes, rendered classic by the muse of Tannahill, have at all times been a favourite with the inhabitants of Paisley; and in the summer season are a favourite walk. Not so much now, however, as it was fifty years ago. In these past days, on the Saturdays, hundreds of men with their wives and children, young lads and lasses, might be seen on the road to and at this favourite resort, all enjoying themselves amidst the heather and the wild rose bushes, in the true *pic nic* style, before these words came into fashion; or dancing on the green to music of their own creating. These were comparatively happy days. Although the mutations of time have greatly changed these things, still it is a favourite walk to vast numbers.

The view from various points on these hills is scarcely to be equalled in Scotland; the fine vale of Renfrewshire lies below you like a map, with all its towns and villages, farm houses, railways, rivers, and bridges; whilst beyond this is seen the Clyde with its steamers, and the ancient rock and castle of Dumbarton, and beyond, again, the majestic mountains of Argyleshire, with a glance at the Queen of Lakes, Lochlomond. And to the west is seen a goodly portion of the Island of Arran. And going eastward to Duchal Law, you can see to "within a mile o' Embro' toun." The scenery on the hills is very fine. Coming down from Duchal Law you fall in with Craigie Linn, where a brawling burn leaps over a rock, presenting a fall of 90 feet, and all around is fringed with hazel bushes and wild roses. Pursuing your way westward, you come to Gleniffer Glen, a most romantic gorge of the mountain, and if you are any way agile, you may go up its bottom, although there will be only room for you and the burn; you will be compelled to be a geologist, by viewing eighty or ninety feet of perpendicular rocks, which in some great convulsions of nature, have been torn asunder, whilst above your head, will be heard the Cusket, who "croodles amorously." Passing along westward, you come to the Bardrain Glen, where the Alpatric burn making its escape from the hills to the low country, tumbles over rocks for nearly a quarter of a mile, and the sides of the glen being beautifully wooded, the scene is of the most picturesque description.

The Gleniffer Braes, and the adjacent country, was a favourite retreat of ROBERT TANNAHILL; here he spent many a happy hour, sometimes in solitary

musings, and sometimes with congenial friends. Stanely Castle stands about a quarter of a mile from the foot of the hills, and it was quite impossible for the poet not to express himself in a song, hence—

Keen blows the wind o'er the braes o' Gleniffer,
Yon auld castle turrets are covered wi' snaw;
How changed sin the time I met wi my lover
Amang the broom bushes by Stanely green shaw.

Altogether, the scenery is of the most cheerful kind. It is a great blessing to a large town like Paisley, which has no parks nor public walks, to have so extensive a one, furnished by nature, as the Braes o' Gleniffer and their environs.

During the last 156 years, there have been eight public executions in Paisley, viz., on the 28th Nov. 1700, ROBERT LAIRD What his crime was we have not learned. On the 28th of March, 1817, ROBERT LANG. Of his crime we are also ignorant.

On 2nd September, 1743, ROBERT LOVE, for the murder of his son. The family were sitting at dinner, the father and son got into an altercation, and the father being of a quick temper, got so irritated, that he stabbed him in the heart with the carving knife which he had in his hand.

On the 27th of November, 1753, ROBERT LYLE, for breaking a bleachfield. He had formerly held a small farm at Bardrain near Leechland, and had been blamed when there, of not being very honest. He was an old

man at the time of the burglary, and was tried by the Sheriff of Renfrewshire at Paisley. The burglary was not proven, but it was proven that he had stolen green kail from a neighbour's garden : on this he was convicted and sentenced to be hanged, which was accordingly carried into execution. It, we believe, was the last trial by a Sheriff in Scotland, and being considered by far too severe a sentence, made a considerable noise throughout the country.

ALEXANDER PROVAN, on 7th November, 1765, for the murder of his wife. This was a most cruel murder. It is said that the manner in which the murder was discovered, was, that he reached his hand and took out, as he thought, a bottle of spirits from below the bed, to treat some person who had come into the house, which when he poured out was blood. The hue and cry of the matter immediately got up, and the Rev. Mr. MORRISON, of the Laigh Church, being passing at the time, went into the house, and having had some conversation on the sudden death of Mrs. PROVAN, shook his head, and said, "Sandy, Sandy, things are no right here," and stopped in the house till the officers arrested him, which the minister had advised. PROVAN was accordingly tried, and sentenced to be hanged at the gallows; previous to his being drawn up, his right hand was to be struck off. At the place of execution a strong stake was driven into the ground, upon the top of which his wrist was fastened, with the rope about his neck. When the hand was struck off, he cried "Pull, pull" and was in an instant launched into eternity.

THOMAS POTTS was executed in 1797.

On the 29th October, 1829, two men were hanged

in front of the County Buildings, for house-breaking at Foxbar. And on the 18th October, 1837, WILLIAM PERRIE was hanged at the same place for murdering his wife.

APPENDIX.

APPENDIX.

Extracts from the Presbytery Records.

19th Januar 1604.—The presbitrie being informit by thair brother, Mr. Patrick Hamiltoun, that Robert Aitken and Robert Miller, parochiners of Lochquinnoche, superstitiouslie behaved yamselves be ringing of girdilles ye day of Januare; as also that Hendrie Paslay, Robert Paislay, Rot. Patoun, and James King, in Muirdykes, efter ane profane and godles manner behavit yamselvis in disagyissing yameselfis, quhilk is nathing less than abominaen in ye eyes of ye Lord, as also being informit be thair Brother, Gavan Hamilton, Vicar of Kilbarchan, that James Andro, &c. &c., “ usit superstitious playis a little before yuill in the day callet yuilevinning, come throw ye clachan of Kilbarchan, making open proclamacn and giving oppen libertie to all men to tak pastyme for ye space of aucht days, as also usit superstitious playis upon the 26 of December, at ye Corsfuird, and gave yameselfis to strolling and drinking. The brithren ordaint all the forsaid persons to be summond to ye next presbitrie day be thair brither, Mr. Patrick Hamiltoun and Gavand Hamiltoun, Vicar at Kilbarchan.”

24 May 1638.—The qlk day the brethren thought good that a solemne fast should be kept on Sondag come eight days, and intimation thereof to be made on Sondag next throughout the whole churches of the presbitrie, for the removeing of the sinnes of the land, especiallie the contempt of the gospell, wch justlie hath provoked God to permit Innovations to creepe in into the church, and that it would please God to save this Kirk-of Scotland from all Innovations of religioun, and that peace with the professioun of the pnt religioun may with libertie be enter-teined.

30 Aug.—The qlk day the brethren that were pnt did all solemnlie sware that they were neither dealt with nor suffer themselves to be dealt with to be perverted against the Covenant nec prece, pretio nec minis.

11 Aprilis 1639.—The qlk day the brithren thought it most expedient and necessar, that Mr. Matthew Brisbane should goe with the Colonell Montgomerie and the companie with him, to Duncce Hill, for their co'fort, be preaching and other exercises of devotion.

9 Decemb. 1641.—The qlk day the brithren were acquainted that the Nynt day of Januar nextoc is appointed to be kept for solemne thanksgiving to God for establysing peace within the Kingdome of Scotland.

19 May 1642.—The qlk the Moderator, brethren, and remanent members of the presbyterie ordained Mr. John Hay and Mr. Henrie Calvert to goe to the Erle of Abercorne, and speake to his Lop anent the subscriptionne of the Covenant, and anent his coming to the Church, and anent the bringing back of his eldest sonne according to the Act of the provincial assembly.

23 September 1643.—Anent a lre of the Estates requireing that the brethren would be pleased everie one to put out a man with other presbyteries with the expeditiounne to England. The brethren have declared their willingness so to do, but have referred the matter till the provincially assemblie to be kept at Lainrek upon Tuisday next insueing, and after advisement to give ansr.

13 June 1644.—The brethren ordeine Mr. Ninian Campbell to goe to the armie now in England, and supplie there as Minister till he were liberat, and that in my Lord Loudounes regiment, and order Mr. Jon Hay to writt to his Lop to that effect.

21 May 1646.—The qlk day the ministers at Paislaye, Kilmacolme, and Killellane, required powers fra the presbitirie for judiciale tryalle and examina'n of suche personnes as are suspected to have had compliyanee with James Grhame or Alex. M'donald, or receivit protection fra theme, qlk was granted.

7th Januar 1647.—The qlk day co^{ll} peirit Andro Semple, touneclerk of Renfrew, and grantit he wes at the meetinge of the

gentilmen of the shyre at Renfrew qn there was ane act made for outputeing a trowpe of horse for James Grhame. The presbyterie hes wrnet him apud acta to this day twentie dayes, to give up ane roll of the gentilmen yt were yre.

27 Decr. 1648.—Reported by the Brethren that the Covenant was renewed with solemne fasting and humilla'n on Sabbath last.

April 12, 1649.—Compeared Johne Wallace of Ferguslie, Allane Wallace, his son, Rot. ffork, elder, and Rot. Alexr, late bailies of Pasley, who for their accessioun to the late sinfull ingadgment, are referred to the gnall assemblie.

27 Sept. 1649.—Reported by John Sprewle, proveist of Renfrew, that he had apprehendit some women in Renfrew for eminent presumptions of Witchcraft. The prebrie appoynts Mrs. Johne Hamiltoun, Alexr. Dunlope, the Lairds of Bischoptoun and Craigends, elders, to confer with the said woemen, and deale to bring them to ane confession.

October 1649.—The prebrie concludet that all the brethrene sall this nicht and the morrowe, deall with the persons apprehendet for witchcraft in Pasley and Renfrew to bring them to confessioun.

Feby. 5, 1650.—The rest of the day and the morrowe to be spent in dealing with the witches now upon pannell, yet they may be brought to repentance.

May 16, 1650.—The solemne thanksgiving for ye overthrow given by the m-tye of God to James Grahame, appointed to be keiped on Wednesday come eight days, according to ye appointment of ye commission of the gnall assemblie.

Penult May 1650.—Produced the confessions of Janet Wood, in Neilston—the prebrie finding her guiltie of gross sorcerie and witchcraft, they have earnestlie recommendet ye same to ye lords of secrete counsell or committee of estates, for granting ane commission for her tryall and censure.

Sept. 1650.—In respect our armye in ye feilds against ye seccaries is scattered at Dunbar, and yt ye gentelmen and ministris of ther westerne shyres are to meet at Kilmarnock, the prebrie appoynts Mrs. Alexr. Dunlope and John Mauld to repaire thither, and to concur with them in any good and necessary course for saiftie of the cause and kingdome.

10th August 1653.—This day, unexpectedlie, Capitane Greene, one of the Inglish armye, with ane partie of soldiers, invadit the presbytrie, and by violence interupted their sitting, carried them out to ane house in the town, and deteined them yr as prisoners, alledging yt all presbries were discharged, and had no power to sitt. Therefter they being dismissed, did againe conveyne, and considering the greit distraction of the tymes, and the uncertaintie of the continuation of yr liberties appointed the ordination of Mr. William Thomson to the ministrie at Merns, to be at Merns the morrow, and the day to be observed as ane day of humiliatioun.

Primo September 1653.—Compeared Capitane John Greene, one of the Inglish officers, who, declaireing that he was come to sitt with the presbrie and attend all their dyets, that he might know what they did in their meetings, did exhibit ane warrand from Colonell Lilburne to that purpose. The prebrie did declaire their great dissatisfaction yrwith, and yt with their consent he sould not sitt with them, whereupon he did forbear for the tym.

25th April 1660.—Mr. Hugh Peebles reports, that as was appointed he did rebuke before the congregation Loghwinnoch, Alexander Hamilton in Kilbarchan parish, and Kathrine Blair, his wife, for scandalous conversing, eating, and drinking wt the Lord Sempell and the rest of his Popish family now excommunicat, particularly at their superstitious observance of Yool, also Giles Sempell for the same fault, and for dauncing with them at the same occasion; item James Allason, John Gillis, Ninian Tarbert, for profaning the Lord's-day in the house of Castle-Sempill, at their superstitious observing of Yool tyde.

August 18, 1664.—Robert Finny, parochiner in Pasley, being sumoned for his abuse upon his marriage day, by bringing a bagpipe thorow the toune of Pasley, with many horse, playing along to the scandal of the people, contrary to orders made formerly in this place against such abuses, and is appointed to be rebuked publickly before the congregation, and to pay six punds Scots of fine for his fault.

Extracts from the Town's Records.

18 July, 1659. The quhilk day the two present bailies, Wm. Greenlies and John Park, old bailies, are appointed to buy a Drum for the use of the Town.

26 Jan. 1660. The Bailies and Council taking to their consideration, that now they have not much to do with the service of John Paterson, Post, they have therefore rebated his 12s. weekly, to 6s. (?) weekly, till they give him further employment and then to pay nobly.

April 9, 1660. Report John Park, Bailie, that as he was appointed he went to Edinburgh and sought all the booths where there is any velvet, and found none three piled, and that the two piled was so bad and thin that he could not buy in for a mortcloth.

1661 May 16. Whereas the Bailies and Council find by experience that people laying out of their foulize in middens at their door-checks on the foregate is both unbeseeming, uncomely, and dishonest to the toun, therefor they have concludit and ordainit, that none hereafter within the parts sall mak their midden at the foregate, but in the backsydes, or else lead the same away within 48 hours after they lay it out, under the pain of ten pundis money, toties quoties, and this to be intimate to every family by the officers.

13 Sep. 1660. This day John Kelso has produced before the other Bailie and Councill the Touns twa pair of colours that was taken away by these who were called the Tories, and were redeemed from some of them by Robert Semple, merchant burgess of Glasgow, and the sum given therfor, formerly paid to the said Robert Semple, by the said Bailie, by allowance of the Councill, and is now put in the common chest.

1690. Oct. 11.—It is statut and ordained that noe women sall washe and tramp clothes in any place of the town, within the sight of walkers on the hie street, under the pain of 40s. toties quoties.

1661. Jan.—Jean Napier, ane common strumpet, banished the town for whoredom, with certification that if any of the inhabitants received her into their houses, they were to be severely punished.

1661. June 1.—This day the Officers are appointed to exclude all women furth of the old Council seat, and to keipe them furth thereof.

1662. Jan. 22.—This day it is statute and ordained be the Bailies and Council, that in all time coming, all sums consisting of 40s. Scots or under, shall be judged by the Bailies on the streets or in the Tolbooth, if they please.

1663. July 20.—This day the Council has appointed the two Bailies to buy and cause lead an hundred draughts of stones to the Witch green for building of ane sconce or dyke to kep, and keep the said for the Town's use.

1664. Mar. 14.—The whilk day the Bailies and Council having taken to their consideratioun the scandalous carriage of Jane Stewart, widow, and that it was proven be eye witnesses her vile fornicatioun committed be her to publiklie, and in the day tym, and that she is now fund relaps therein, have appointit her to be expelled the town betwixt and Friday next, as ane vile person, not worthie any more to dwell therein, and that she sall stand in ward till she find cautione to the effect that she sall never any more be ane residerter therein.

1664. August 13.—This day the Bailies and Council have considered ane supplicatioun of the two officers and Drummer, for 5 punds of fee to ilk ane of them conform to former use and wont, they find that it is but ane late practice, and was only granted to them in the English time when they had meikle pains and little gains, and therefor ordains them to have the same fee for this year, but not hereafter.

— Oct. 13.—The whilk day it is statute be the bailies and Council that whatsoever person hereafter burges or inhabitant, liable in payment of any of the town's goods, and shifting and delaying to do the same, shall have the key of the tolbooth door sent to them by the Treasurer, for entering inward and remaining therein, ay and while they pay that which they shall be liable unto, and that within the space of 24 hours after the sending to them of the said key—that then and in that case the officers, as they shall answer upon their peril, shall, upon their first sight of them, put that person in ward, therein to remain in close ward ay and while they satisfy the debt.

CHARTER OF JAMES IV.

JAMES, by the grace of God, king of the Scots; Be it known, that, for the singular respect we have for the glorious confessor, St. Mirran, and our monastery of Paisley, founded by our most illustrious progenitors, where very many of the bodies of our ancestors are buried, and are at rest, and for the singular favour and love which we bear to the venerable father in Christ, George Shaw, present abbot of said monastery, our very dear counsellor, and for the faithful service rendered us in a variety of ways by the said venerable father, in times past, and in a particular manner for the virtuous education and nourishment of our dearest brother, James duke of Ross, in his tender age, we have made, constituted, erected, and, by the tenor of our present charter, make, constitute, erect and create, the village of Paisley, lying within the sheriffdom of Renfrew, a free burgh in barony. We have granted also to the present and future inhabitants of said burgh, the full and free liberty of buying and selling in said burgh, wine, wax, woollen and linen cloths, wholesale or retail, and all other goods and wares coming to it; with power and liberty of having and holding in the same place, bakers, brewers, butchers, and sellers both of flesh and fish, and workmen in the several crafts, tending in any respect to the liberty of the burgh in barony. We have granted likewise to the burgesses and inhabitants of said burgh of Paisley, therein to have and possess a cross and market-place for ever, every week, on Monday, and two public fairs yearly, for ever; one, namely, on the day of St. Mirran, and the other on the day of St. Marnock, with tolls and other liberties pertaining to fairs of this kind; of holding and having, for the future, the said village of Paisley a real and free burgh in barony, with the foresaid privileges, grants, and all other liberties, as freely, quietly, fully, entirely, honourably and well, in peace, in every time, circumstance, and condition, as the burgh of Dunfermline, Newburgh, and Aberbrothick, or any other burgh in barony in our kingdom, in any time past, is more largely endowed and held: And we have granted besides to the said venerable father, and to his successors, the abbots of Paisley, the right and power of chusing annually the provost, bailies, and

other officers of said burgh, and of removing the same as need shall be, and of chusing others anew in their room, &c. In testimony whereof, we have caused our great seal to be put to this our present charter, these reverend fathers in Christ being witnesses, Robert, bishop of Glasgow, George, bishop of Dunkeld, our beloved blood relations, Colin, earl of Argyle, Lord Campbell, our chancellor, Archibald, earl of Angus, Lord Douglas, Patrick, Lord Hailes, master of our household, Robert Lord Lyle, our justice, Andrew, Lord Grey, Laurence, Lord Oliphant, John, Lord Drummond. At Stirling, on the 19th day of the month of August, 1488, and in the first year of our reign."

CHARTER OF ROBERT BRUCE TO DUNFERMLINE.

ROBERT, by the Grace of GOD, King of the Scots, to all honest people of his Country, greeting :

Know ye that we, for the salvation of our own soul, and the salvation of the souls of our predecessors, and successors, Kings of Scotland, have given and granted, and by this present charter confirmed to God, to the blessed Virgin Mary, and to the church of the sacred Trinity, and of St. Margaret, at Dumfermline, and to the monks there serving God, and that shall serve him for ever, the right of patronage of the vicarage of Innerkeithing, with the pertinents thereof, as freely, quietly, fully, peaceably, and honourably as the predecessors of Rodger de Mowbra, Knight, who forfeit against us the said right of patronage more freely, quietly, and honourably in all things formerly held and possessed, it giving to us but his word by suffrage only. Besides, we give and grant, and by this present charter, confirm to the foresaid monks, our whole new great custom of all their land within our kingdom, viz. as well of the boroughs of Dumfermline, Kircaldy, Musselburgh, and Queensferry, as of all their other lands whatsoever; so that the said monks may have and use their own proper cocket, according to the liberties of their regali-

ty, and this our present grant, in all their foresaid lands; which cocket is to be admitted and acknowledged by all our burgesses and people, and foreign merchants throughout our whole kingdom, without the impediment of our chamberlains, or any other of our ministers whatsomever, who may for the time be without the petitioning of any other allocation or clearance. In testimony of which, we have caused our seal to be put to the present charter, before those witnesses, the venerable fathers, William, bishop of St. Andrew's; William, bishop of Dunkeld; Bernard, our Chancellor, Abbot of Aberbrothick; Duncan and Thomas Ranulfa, Earls of Fife and Murray; John Lord Monteith; James Lord Douglas; David Barclay; Alexander Seton; Robert Lawder, Knights, and others."

CHARTER OF ERECTION.

JESUS.

MARIA.

To all and sundry who may see or hear this Indented Charter, GEORGE SCHAW, Abbot of the Monastery of PAISLEY and Convent of the said place, of the Cluniacension Order; and Diocese of GLASGOW, wisheth safety in God Everlasting.

Be it known to your university, That for as much as we have the village of Paisley made and created, by our most Excellent Lord the King, into a free Burgh, to us and our successors, as is fully contained in a charter granted thereupon under his majesty's great seal: Therefore, we having diligently considered the premises, always providing for and wishing the utility of our said monastery, with advice and consent of our whole chapter chapterly convened, to have given, granted, set, and in feu-farm let, and by this our present charter to have confirmed, and hereby give, grant, set, and in feu-farm let, and by this our present charter to have confirmed to our Lovites, the Provost, Bailies, Burgesses, and Community of our Burgh of Paisley, ALL and WHOLE our said Burgh in Barony, with the pertinents lying in our regality of Paisley, within the sheriffdom of Renfrew, within the bounds and limits underwritten, to wit, Beginning at

the end of the bridge of Paisley upon the water of Cart, and so extending by the king's highway towards the west, to the vinnel opposite to the Wellmeadow, and from thence equally ascending towards the north by the ditch of the lands of Oakshawside, to the wood of Oakshaw, betwixt the said wood, as also the passage to the common of the said Burgh, and the Broomdyke, which extends by the lands of Sneddon, from the common of said Burgh, to the water of Cart on the north parts, and the said water of Cart, as also the torrent of Espedair on the east part, and the Mustard-yard and way extending on the south part of the house of John Murray, and so by the hedge extending above the west end of the Whitefauld on the south part, and the said Whitefauld, as also a part of the common of the said Burgh, and said Wellmeadow, and ditch of the said lands of Oakshawside on the west part upon the one side and other for edifying and building of tenements, mansions and yards to the said provost, bailies, burgesses and community, as is specially assigned, or hereafter shall be assigned, to every one of them by us and our said convent, by our said convent, by our charters of feu-farm, together with certain acres of the nearest lands, lying within the limits and bounds aforesaid, assigned or to be assigned to every tenement, mansion and yard, according to the tenor of our said charters made or to be made thereupon. Moreover, we annex and incorporate the tofts, houses, buildings, mansions, yards and lands of Seedhill, to the liberty and privilege of our said Burgh in barony of Paisley, to be possessed perpetually in all time hereafter. As also, we have given, granted, set, and in feu-farm let, and sicklike give, grant, set, and in feu-farm let to the said provost, bailies, burgesses, and community of our said burgh of Paisley, and their successors for the time being, our lands underwritten, whereof one part of the said lands lie at the west end of our said Burgh towards the south, betwixt the lands of Causeyside, and the lands of Thomas Leitch, called the Bank, on the east part, and the lands of Castlehead; as also the lands of Sir Henry Muir, John Whitefoord, and the Stobs of Riccarsbar on the south parts, and the bottom of the Ward on the west part, and the tail of Broomlands; as also the Wellmeadow and Prior's Croft on the north part: and the other part of the said lands lie on the north part of the said Burgh, betwixt the lands of Oakshawhead

and the wood of Oakshaw ; as also the croft of Robert —, called the Sclatebank, on the south part, and the lands of Sneddon, and water of Cart ; as also the holm of Wardmeadow on the east part, and the march dyke of inch, and the Moss of Paisley on the north parts, and the said Moss on the west parts upon the one side and others for the convenience of said Burgh, or for ever to be possessed for the common pasturage of the cattle of the said provost, bailies, burgesses, and community ; and sicklike, we have given and granted free license and power to the said provost, bailies, burgesses, and community, and their successors for the time being, for gaining and taking their fuel in whatsoever our peat Mosses of Paisley for sustaining the said provost, bailies, burgesses, and community, and their successors for ever, and for gaining and taking stones out of our stone-quarries, for erecting and building of the said Burgh ; as oft and so oft it shall be lawful for you for the future, providing that we have what may be necessary for us, where we please in the said Mosses and quarries. And in case the said provost, bailies, burgesses, or community of the said Burgh, shall find or gain a coal-heugh, or coal-heughs, in their said common of the said Burgh, we will and ordain, That we and our successors shall thence have our necessaries, we paying our part of the expences for the gaining of the said coal-heugh, or coal-heughs, as the said provost, bailies, burgesses, and community of the said Burgh pay for their part thereof or shall be willing to pay. And further, we give and grant to the said provost, bailies, burgesses, and community of the said Burgh, a common passage of the breadth of twelve ells, on the north side of St. Mirran's croft, extending from the said part of the foresaid common lands, even to the other part thereof, having and holding all and whole the foresaid Burgh of Paisley in a barony, with the tenements, mansions, yards, acres of land, bounds and limits thereof, assigned or to be assigned by us to them, with the common pasturage of their cattle upon our Moss of Paisley, and license in our peat mosses and quarries aforesaid, as the same lie in length and breadth, to the said provost, bailies, burgesses, and community of the foresaid Burgh, and their successors, in feu-farm heritably for ever, by all right meiths thereof, used and divided, limited, or to be limited by us to them ; with power of buying and selling within the said Burgh, wine,

wax, cloth, woollen and linen, arls or crafts, and other goods and merchandize coming thereto; with the ancient-customs and tolls, and with all and sundry other liberties, commondities, profits, and easements, and righteous pertinents whatsoever, belonging, or which may be justly understood hereafter to belong to the said Burgh in Barony; with power of choosing and making Burgesses or Stallingers, according to the customs, and laws and statutes of burghs made thereanent: which Burgesses and Stallingers, and every one of them shall, at their entry, swear that they shall be faithful to our sovereign Lord the King and his successors, kings of Scotland; as also to the steward of Scotland, and his heirs and successors; and to us the abbot and convent and our successors; and to the said bailies and community, and common utility of the said Burgh, in the same manner as burgesses in other burghs do, or have been in use to do. Moreover, we give and grant to the provost and bailies of the said Burgh, to be elected by us for the time, and their successors, full and free power of holding, convening, and fencing of Burgh courts of the said Burgh, and of continuing the same how oft it shall be found needful, and of uplifting the issues and amerciaments of the said courts, and of fining the absents, and punishing transgressors and delinquents according to the statutes and laws of burghs; and to choice serjeants, officers, ministers, tasters of ale and wine, and appretiators of flesh, and other servants whomsoever necessary for a burgh, and as it is statuted and ordained in other burghs, according to the strength, form, and tenor, so far as concerns the extension of the foresaid liberties, as is at length contained in the charter of the said Burgh in barony, and privileges thereof granted by our Sovereign Lord the King, to us and our successors. And further, we give and grant to the bailies of the said Burgh, to be chosen by us and our successors, full power and faculty of taking and receiving resignations of all and sundry lands, acres and tenements, lying within the said Burgh, and to give and deliver heritable state and seasin, as is the use in burghs, to the wives of the possessors, or their true heirs; providing they give seasin to no other persons, neither receive resignations without our consent and assent had and obtained thereto. It is also our will, that the said provost and bailies of the said Burgh be annually chosen by advice of us and

our successors, at the term and court limited by law within burghs, and that they shall be deprived as oft and how oft as need beis, without any obstacle whatsoever. And further, we will and grant that the said provost, bailies, burgesses, and community of the said Burgh, shall for ever have, for sustaining their Burgh, and profits of the said Burgh, the fines of all burgesses and stallingers of the said Burgh, to be made in all time coming, together with the ancient customs and tolls of the said burgh, as is the custom in other burghs; rendering yearly the foresaid provost, bailies, and community of the said Burgh, and their heirs and successors, to us and our successors, forth of the said tenements, mansions, yards, and acres of land within the bounds and limits of the Burgh before-written, the burgh-farm, and service of courts, used and wont with the yearly rents due forth thereof, according to the tenor of our rental and register, and as is at more length contained in our foresaid charters made and granted, or to be made and granted, upon the feu-farm tacks of the said tenements, mansions, yards and acres; and that the said provost, bailies, burgesses, and community of the said burgh, and their successors, shall come with their grain, whatsoever, in so far as they shall grind, to our miln of Paisley, and not to any other miln whatsoever, paying therefore to us multure, to the thirty-one dish only, as men abiding forth of our lands; for all other burden, exaction, question, demand, or secular service, which can any manner of way be justly exacted or required by any manner of persons forth of the said Burgh in barony, tenements, mansions, yards and acres, lying within the said Burgh, with the pertinents. In witness whereof, the common seal of the chapter of our said monastery, is appended to this present indented Charter, remaining with the said provost, bailies, burgesses, and community of the said Burgh; and the common seal of the said Burgh of Paisley, is appended to the said present indented Charter, remaining with the said Abbot and Convent at the monastery and Burgh aforesaid, the second day of June, one thousand four hundred and ninety, before these witnesses, to wit, James Schaw, of Sawchy, David Schaw his son, Thomas Stewart of Craigenfeoch, Robert Semple, John Balston of that Ilk, John Schaw, Sir Alexanner Clugston and James Young, Nottars public, with many others.

GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

Charter dated "at Halierude House," 3d January 1576, by King James VI., with the consent of James Earl of Morton, Lord Dalkeith, Regent, and the Lords of the Privy-Council, whereby he, upon the narrative of the good conduct of his subjects, and particularly of the burgh of Paisley, and because it became him to provide for the erection of a school in the burgh, "for the initiation of youth in learning and good morals, not only that they might be useful in the service of God, but in the service of the burgh," grants and conveys to the bailies and councillors, and community of Paisley and their successors, "all and whole the altarages of the chapels, the lands and manse after-mentioned, farms, annual rents, profits, and duties of the same, pittances, obit silver and common duties under specified, lying in the burgh, parish, and liberty of Paisley, viz., the altarage of St. Mirren and Columba, the altarage of St. Ninian, the altarage of the Virgin Mary, the altarage of St. Nicholas, altarages of St. Peter, St. Catherine, and St. Anne, the chapel of St. Rock, and the seven roods of land or thereby of the said chapel belonging to the same, together with the other pittances of obit silver or common, which formerly the monks of Paisley were in use to levy and receive, with power to the bailies, council, and community, and their successors, and their collectors to receive the subjects, conveyed in the same way as any prebendariys or chaplains could formerly, for the repair and support of a grammar-school, and support of a master or preceptor, for the instruction and erudition of youth of the burgh and neighbourhood. The subjects conveyed and confirmed are erected into one body (corpus), to be called the King's Foundation of the Grammar School of Paisley." (*"Foundationem nostram scolæ grammaticalis de Paisley nuncupandam."*) Among the witnesses to this charter appears "our familiar councillor Mr. George Buquhanane, pensioner of Corsraguel, keeper of our privy seal."

HUTCHESON'S CHARITY SCHOOL.

This School was founded by Mrs. Margaret Hutcheson in 1795, who left the sum of £1,500 in the hands of trustees for the purpose of building a school-house, and endowing the same, for the education of orphans and children of poor parents who were unable to give them a proper education. The trust has been well managed; an excellent hall has been built in Oakshaw Street, which can accommodate upwards of 200 pupils, and there are never fewer than 150, who are taught reading, writing, arithmetic, grammar, and, if they are inclined, various other advanced branches. John Park and Margaret Hutcheson his wife, were poor people; she had a brother in the Island of Antigua, who had acquired an ample fortune, and at his death, by his last will, it came into her possession. Mr. Walter Carswell, a manufacturer, also left £500 to the institution.

CONTRACT BETWEEN LORD DUNDONALD AND THE COMMUNITY
OF PAISLEY, FOR THE PURCHASE OF THE SUPREMACY OF
THE BURGH BY THE COMMUNITY.

P

AT Paisley the third day of May, the year of God one thousand six hundred and fifty eight years: It is appointed, contracted, concorded and finally agreed, betwixt the parties following; They are to say; The Right noble lord, William Lord Cochran, of Paisley and Dundonald, and William Master of Cochran, his eldest son lawful, both with one consent and assent on the one part: and William Greenlees, and John Park, merchants, present bailies of the burgh of Paisley, William Love, thesaurer of the said burgh, and councillors thereof undersubscribing, for themselves, and taking the burden upon them for the community of the said burgh of Paisley, on the other part, in manner, form and effect as after follows: that is to say, forswameikle as the

abbots, lords, and commendators of Paisley, with consent of the convent of the abbacy thereof for the time, having of old given and granted to the bailies, council, community, and indwellers of the said burgh of Paisley, certain freedoms, privileges, liberties and immunities, with and adjoined to the said burgh of Paisley, and contained in the Charter of the erection of the samen; and the said noble lord, William Lord Cochran, now lord of the erection of Paisley, and William Mr. of Cochran, his eldest son lawful, being most careful, that not only the haill former freedoms, privileges, liberties, and immunities of old, granted and conferred in favours of the said burgh of Paisley, be kept and preserved whole, firm, and entire to them: But also, being most willing for the better thriving and flourishing of the said burgh, to corroborate, strengthen, and augment the samen in manner aftermentioned; and therefore, they the said William Lord Cochran and William Master of Cochran his eldest son lawful, for diverse and sundry respects, good causes and considerations, moving them hereunto, and for certain sums of money paid, and delivered to them by the saids present bailies and council of the said burgh of Paisley, and theirsaid thesaurer, wherewith the said William Lord Cochran, and William Master of Cochran, his son, grants them satisfied, discharging them thereof for ever; have renounced, dimitted, and over-given, and hereby renounce, dimit and over-give frae them, the said William Lord Cochran, and William Master of Cochran his son, their heirs, successors, and assigneys, all right of the superiority of the said burgh of Paisley, within the bounds thereof aftermentioned, to the effect and intent the foresaid burgh of Paisley, freedoms, liberties, and privileges of the samen, in all time coming may be holden of his highness, the Lord Protector * of the common-wealth of England, Scotland, and Ireland, and dominions thereunto belonging, and his highness' successors, superiors thereof; likes the said William Lord Cochran, and William Master of Cochran, his son lawful, both with one consent and assent, as said is, be the tenor hereof, renounce, quite claim, discharge, dispoone, and overgive frae them and their foresaids to and in favours of the saids bailies, council, community, thesaurer, and inhabitants of

* Cromwell.

the said burgh of Paisley, and their successors, all right of property and magistracy of the said burgh of Paisley, and election of the bailies, council, clerk, burgesses, officers, and other members thereof, in all time coming, and of the tenements, lands and others, within the same burgh and lands of Seedhill, annexed thereto, within the bounds after-mentioned, and territory of the samen, (except the milns called the Seedhill milns, corn kilns thereof, Miln-hills, or Shilling-hills of the samen, and thirled, and astricted moultures of the said burgh of Paisley, and knave-ship thereof, according to use and wont, and of the lands after-mentioned within the territory thereof,) to the effect, they the saids bailies, council, and community of the said burgh, and their successors, may bruik, enjoy, and possess the samen, conform to their respective titles thereof, and may be in capacity and power to elect, choice, change, and continue their own magistrates, bailies, council, thesaurer, clerk, burgesses, officers, and all other members necessary and usual within the said burgh, as they shall think convenient: And in like manner, they the said William Lord Cochran, and William Master of Cochran his son, both with ane consent and assent, as said is, for them and their foresaids, hereby sell, dispoone, renounce, assign, and overgive frae them and their foresaids, to and in favours of the saids bailies, council, thesaurer and Community of the said burgh of Paisley, and their successors, for the public use of the said burgh, all and sundry the feu-duties of old addebtet, oblisht, and usual to be paid to the abbot and convent of the said sometime abbacy of Paisley, and sensyne to the lords of the erection of Paisley, and their factors, and chamberlains, furth of and for the said burgh of Paisley, houses biggings, yards, tenements, aikers, teinds, and parcels of land thereof, westward frae the east end of the bridge of Paisley, and Mustard-yard-dyke, including and comprehending the lands of Calsiysde, Orchard, Bladoyard, Snaddon, Huthead, Hillhead, Welmeadow, Broomlands, and others within the bounds territory and limits of the said burgh of Paisley, property, and commontie of the samen, (excluding the feu-duties of the lands called Oxshaw-wood, and Ward-meadow, whilk are no ways comprehended in this present disposition and assignation above-written :) to the effect and intent, that the saids bailies, council, thesaurer and community of the said burgh and their successors,

may hereby have full right and power as by the tenor hereof, the said William Lord Cochran, and William Master of Cochran, his son, for them and their foresaids, now give, grant, and commit to them the saids bailies, council, thesaurer, and community of the said burgh, and their successors, their full right and power to collect, gather, uplift, and receive all and sundry the saids feuduties of the said burgh of Paisley, houses, biggings, yards, tenements, aikers, roods, and parcels of lands thereof, within the bounds above mentioned, including and comprehending as is above included and comprehended, and excepting and secluding, as is above excepted and secluded of the cropt and year of God one thousand six hundred fifty-eight years instant; both Whitsunday and Martimass terms of the same, and yearly and termly in all time coming: And to employ and bestow the samen to the public and common use, and good of the said burgh, emolument and profit thereof, and giff needs beis to call, follow and pursue therefore, decreets, sentences, precepts and executorials thereupon, to obtain, raise, use and cause put to execution, and to give discharges thereof, and to do every other thing needful thereanent, as the said William Lord Cochran, or either of them, or their foresaids might have done, giff they had not made thir presents: and moreover, the said William Lord Cochran, and William Master of Cochran his son, both with one consent and assent, for them and their foresaids, hereby ratify and approve to them, the saids bailies, thesaurer, council, and community of the said burgh of Paisley, and their successors for ever, their former and accustomed privileges and liberties of that part of the Moss of Paisley, which is bounded betwixt the marches of Fergualie and Merksworth, conform to their former right and title thereof, and possession used and wont; and by thir presents, they the said William Lord Cochran, and William Master of Cochran his son, both with one consent and assent for them, and their foresaids, renounce, dispoone, and over-give frae them and their foresaids, in favours of the saids bailies, thesaurer, council, and community of the said burgh of Paisley, and their successors, all right, title and interest, whilk they the saids William Lord Cochran, William Master of Cochran his son, or either of them, or their foresaids, had, have, or can pretend to that part foresaid of the said Moss of Paisley, betwixt the said

marches of Ferguslie and Merksworth, made or to be made, to the effect that the saids bailies, thesaurer, council, and community, and their successors, may bruik, enjoy, and possess the samen in all time coming, conform to their said rights thereof, title and possession, used and wont; and of the whilk right of superiority above-written, of the said burgh of Paisley, within the bounds above specified, including and comprehending, as is above included and comprehended, and excepting and secluding, as is above excepted and secluded; the said William Lord Cochran, and William Master of Cochran his son, bind and oblige them, and their foresaids, to formally and legally divest themselves in the hands of his said highness the Lord protector of the commonwealth of England, Scotland, and Ireland, and dominions thereunto belonging, and his successors, or their commissioners of exchequer, in this nation, *ad perpetuam remanentiam*, to the effect the said superiority may conform to the laws and statutes of this nation, be consolidate in the person and favours of his said highness and his successors for ever. And sicklike, the said William Lord Cochran, and William Master of Cochran his son, hereby bind and oblige them, and ilk one of them, conjunctly, and severally, and their foresaids, by all legal and lawful means to divest and denude themselves and their foresaids of the said property of the said burgh, of Paisley, and magistracy thereof, and election of the saids bailies, clerk, burgesses, officers, and all other members thereof, and of all right that they or their foresaids can or may in time coming claim or pretend thereto, and to the tenements, lands, and other foresaids, within the said burgh, including and comprehending as is above included and comprehended, and excepting and secluding, as is above excepted and secluded, to the effect and intent above specified, and to the saids feu-duties of old addebtet and due to the said abbot and convent of the said sometime abbacy of Paisley, and sensyne to the saids lords of erection of Paisley, and payable to them furth of the said burgh of Paisley, houses, biggings, yards, tenements, aikers, and parcels of lands thereof, within the territory of the samine, and bounds above-mentioned, including and comprehending, as is above included and comprehended, and excepting and secluding, as is above excepted and secluded, to the effect and intent above exprimed, and of all right, title, or interest foresaid, whilk the

said William Lord Cochran, William Master of Cochran his son, and their foresaids had, have, or can pretend to that part foresaid of the Moss of Paisley, betwixt the marches foresaid of Fergusly and Merksworth, made or to be made, in manner above-specified, to the effect and intent above contained by resignation of the samine in the hands of his said Highness the Lord Protector of the Common-wealth of England, Scotland, and Ireland, and dominions thereunto belonging, or his Highness' successors, superiors thereof, or their saids commissioners of exchequer, in favours of the said bailies, council, and community of the said burgh of Paisley, and their successors, and for new infetment to be made, given and granted to them thereof, to be holden by them, from the said William Lord Cochran, William Master of Cochran his son, and their foresaids, of the said Lord Protector, and his Highness' successors, in all time coming, in free blench, for payment of an Scots penny yearly, at the feast of Whitsunday, at the market cross of the said burgh, in the name of blench ferm, giff it beis asked, allenerly, and sicklike, for payment yearly to his said Highness, and his successors of the sum of Seven Pounds good and usual Scots money, as an proportional part of the blench-duty of the said erected lordship of Paisley, for the said William Lord Cochran, his said son, and their foresaids, the relief of the said blench-duty, of the said erected lordship of Paisley, *pro tanto*, or by payment thereof, to the said William Lord Cochran, William Master of Cochran his son, and their foresaids, to be employed and applied by them, for their own relief of the samen, at the option of the saids bailies and council of Paisley, and their thesaurer and successors, and with special clause of warrandice, of the infetment foresaid, likeas now, as give the samen infetment were made and perfected, and then as now. The said William Lord Cochran, and William Master of Cochran his son, hereby bind and oblige them, conjunctly and severally, and their foresaids, to warrand, acquite, and defend to the saids bailies and council, and community of the burgh of Paisley, and their successors and thesaurer, the premises above dispensed, assigned and ratified to them, als freely and quietly, in, and be all things, as is above-mentioned, from them the said William Lord Cochran, and William Master of Cochran his son, and their foresaids, their own proper facts and deeds

alienary. That is to say, that they, nor any of them, nor their foressaids have not done, nor shall not do any fact or deed, in hurt and prejudice of the premises, in any sort. And moreover, the said William Lord Cochran, and William Master of Cochran his son, hereby also bind and oblige them, and ilk ane of them, and their foressaids, that they or any of them in the purchase of their new signature and infestment of the said erected lordship of Paisley, shall either cause to be excepted, reserved, and expunged, the haill privileges, liberties, and feu-duties, and others above-disposed, above-assigned, and above-ratified by them to the saids bailies, council, and community of the said burgh of Paisley, and their successors, give they the said bailies and council of Paisley, and their successors, shall find the same conducing for their security: or otherways, the inserting, and not excepting, reservings and expunging thereof, furth of the said signature and infestment, shall no ways derogate anything from this above-written security, nor extenuate, nor weaken the same, but to the contrary, shall be in fortification and corroboration hereof. And shall be an supervenient right to them, the saids bailies, council, and community of the said burgh of Paisley, and their successors for that effect. And the said William Lord Cochran, his son, and their foressaids are, and shall be farther bound and obliged hereby, for the further strengthening and securing of the premises to the saids bailies, council, and community of the said burgh of Paisley, and their successors, in all time coming, that the saids William Lord Cochran his son, nor their foressaids, shall not purchase, in hurt or prejudice of this above-written security, any new gifts or donation of the premises above-assigned, disposed and ratified. But to the contrair, shall not only abstain therefrae; or gif any such gift or donation shall be so purchased by them, or to their behoof, the same shall acresce, and be also supervenient to the saids bailies, council, and community of the said burgh of Paisley, and their successors, and shall be transferred in their favours, in so far as may secure the premises to them. And it is provided, and declared hereby, that this present above-written security, of the feu-duties foressaids, made and granted by the saids William Lord Cochran, and his said son, to the saids bailies, council, and community of the said burgh of Paisley, and the successors, shall be upon, and with special con-

dition, that notwithstanding of the premises, the samen feu-duties shall be redeemable, to his Highness, the Lord Protector, superior foresaid, and his successors, or to the heritors of the saids lands, tenements, and others foresaids, out of which the samen are payable, conform to the act of Parliament, laws, and constitutions of this nation. And yet thereby the said yearly duty of Seven Pounds money foresaid, shall no ways be impaired nor diminished: And for the making and perfecting to the saids bailies, and council, and community of the said burgh of Paisley, and their successors, of the said infeftment, and resignation above-mentioned, the saids William Lord Cochran, and William Master of Cochran, his son, both with one consent and assent, have made, constitute, and ordained, and by the tenor hereof make, constitute, and ordain their lovits and ilk ane of them conjunctly and severally, their very lawful, undoubted, and irrevocable procurators, actors, factors, and special errand bearers, to the effect after-specified, giveand, grantand, and committand to them, and ilk ane of them, as said is, their very full, free, and plain power, general, and special express bidding, mandament and charge, To compear before his said Highness, the Lord Protector of the Common-wealth of England, Scotland, and Ireland, and dominions thereunto belonging, and his Highness' successors, superiors foresaids, or before his Highness' commissioners of exchequer of this nation: and there, for, and in name of the saids William Lord Cochran, and William Master of Cochran, his son, and upon their behalf, to renunce, resign, freely quite-claim, discharge, surrender over, and up-give purely and simply, be staff and baston, as use is, as they now, by the tenor hereof, renunce, resign, freely quite-claim, discharge, surrender, over, and up-give frae them, and their foresaids, the foresaid superiority, or right of superiority above-written, of the said burgh of Paisley, within the bounds above-specified, including and comprehending, as is above-included and comprehended, and excluded as is above-excluded, with all right, title, and interest, whilk they, or their foresaids had, have or can pretend thereto, in the hands of his said Highness, or his successors, superiors foresaid, or their commissioners foresaids, in their names, *ad perpetuam remanentiam*, in manner after-specified, and to the effect above-mentioned: and also, for them, the said

William Lord Cochran, and William Master of Cochran, his son, and in their names, and upon their behalfs, to renounce, resign, freely quite-claim, discharge, surrender over and up-give from them and their foresaids, purely and simply, by staff and bastoun, as use is, as they now hereby renounce, resign, freely quite-claim, discharge, surrender over and up-give from them and their foresaids, in the hands of the said superior, or commissioners of exchequer foresaid, the said property of the said burgh of Paisley, and magistracy thereof, and election of the saids bailies, council, clerk, burgesses, officers, and other members thereof, and of the saids tenements, lands, and others within the samen burgh, and lands of Seedhill foresaid, annexed thereto, within the bounds above and after-mentioned, and territory of the same, except the saids milns, called the Seedhill milns, corn kilns thereof, Miln hills, or Shilling hills of the samen, and thirled and astricted multures of the said burgh of Paisley, and knaveships thereof foresaid, according to use and wont: And of the lands above and after-mentioned within the territory thereof, to the effect and intent above-specified, and all and sundry the saids feu-duties above-mentioned, of old addebtet and due to the said abbot and convent of the said sometime abbacy of Paisley, and sensyne to the saids lords of the erection of Paisley, forth of the saids houses, biggings, yards, tenements of the Burgh of Paisley, aikers, rudes, and parcels of land thereof westward, frae the said east side of the said bridge of Paisley and Mustard-yard dyke, including and comprehending the saids lands of Calsiside, Orchard, Bladoyard, Sneddon, Hut-head, Hill-head, Well-meadow, Broomlands, and others within the bounds above-written, and limits of the said burgh of Paisley, property and commonie of the samine, (excluding the feu-duties of the said lands of Oakshaw-wood and Ward-meadow, which are no ways comprehended within this present resignation) to the effect and intent above-exprimed. And sicklike, all right, title, and interest foresaid, whilk the said William Lord Cochran, and William Master of Cochran his son, or any of them, or their foresaids had, have, or can pretend to that part foresaid of the said Moss of Paisley, betwixt the said marches of Fergusly and Merkworth, made or to be made, to the effect above-contained; and that the saids bailies, council, and community of the said burgh,

and their successors, may brook, enjoy, and possess the samine in all time coming, conform to their said right thereof, title and possession used and wont, in the special favours of the saids bailies, council, and community of the said burgh of Paisley and their successors, and for new infestment to be given to them thereof, to be holden in manner above-mentioned, and thereupon instruments and documents to take, ask, lift, and raise; and generally all and sundry other things to do, use, and exerce in the premises that to the office of procuratory, in such cases of the law, and consuetude of this nation is known to appertain, or that the said William Lord Cochran, and William Master of Cochran his son, or any of them might do themselves if they were personally present, firm and stable, holding and for to hold all and whatsoever other things by their saids procurators, or any of them, in the premises, in their names, righteously appertains to be done, and thereat obliges them to abide, without appellation or reclamation. FOR THE WHILKS CAUSES, the saids bailies and council of the said burgh of Paisley, and their said thesaurer for themselves, and in name of the community of the said burgh, hereby bind and oblige them and their successors, bailies, council and community, and thesaurer of the said burgh, either in manner foresaid, to make payment yearly to his said Highness the Lord Protector of the Common-wealth foresaid, and his successors, and commissioners of exchequer, of the said sum of seven pounds money of Scotland yearly, as a proportional part of the said blench duty of the foresaid erected lordship of Paisley, for the said William Lord Cochran, his said son, and their foresaids, their relief of the said blench-duty of the said erected lordship of Paisley *pro tanto*: and for that effect to procure and deliver to them yearly acquittances and discharges thereof, beginning the first year's relief thereof for this instant year of God one thousand six hundred and fifty-eight years, and sua forth in all time coming, or else to make payment to the said William Lord Cochran, his said son and his foresaids, of the said yearly duty of seven pounds money foresaid, to be employed or applied by them for their own relief of the samine, beginning the first year's payment as is above-written, and that at the option of the said bailies, council, thesaurer, and community of the said burgh, and their successors; and sua forth to continue in all

time coming as they shall choise, in manner foresaid yearly. And because the said William Lord Cochran, and William Master of Cochran his son, have in manner as is above-mentioned conferred on the said burgh of Paisley divers favours, courtesies, and respects, therefore the saids bailies, thesaurer, and council of the said burgh of Paisley, hereby binds and obliges them and their successors in office, that not only they and their saids successors shall themselves in all time coming endeavour to live peaceably, and to give to the said William Lord Cochran, and William Master of Cochran his son, and to their families and successors, at all occasions, all due honour, respect and observance becoming them, and to do their best endeavours to counsel the inhabitants of the said burgh of Paisley, to do in like manner the samine, but also that they the magistrates of the said burgh shall yearly, in all time coming, immediately after their election, go to the place of Paisley, if the said William Lord Cochran, William Master of Cochran his son, or their successors and their families be there abiding, or residing for the time, or how soon thereafter they shall come there to abide ; and there shall solemnly declare and demonstrate to them the said William Lord Cochran, his said son, and their successors foresaids, their humble acknowledgment of the favours, courtesies, and respects foresaids, conferred by them on the said burgh of Paisley, and give unto them the saids William Lord Cochran, his said son, and their foresaids therefore, all honour, observance, and respect due to them, with all condign reverence. And it is provided and declared hereby, that this present security above-written, and warrandice therein contained, shall not be extended to the propriety of that tenement within the said burgh of Paisley, dispoined by the said William Lord Cochran to John Snodgrass, burgess there, which formerly pertained to Andrew Sempill of Bruntfields, nor to the propriety of the land without the west port of Paisley, which sometime pertained to Umquhile John Stuart, called of Bridgend, or Margaret Cochran his spouse, nor to the propriety of that piece of land extending to an half rude of land, or thereby, near the Gates-law, called Cocksmailing ; but that the propriety of the said particulars shall be excepted forth of the security and warrandice foresaid ; and the exception of the propriety thereof foresaid, shall no ways prejudge the saids bailies, council, and

community of the said burgh, and their successors, and their thesaurer, of the feu-duties of the premises sua above excepted ; but the feu-duties thereof accustomed shall hereby belong to the saids bailies, council, and community, and their successors and thesaurers in all time coming, and the same shall be holden of the saids bailies and council, and their successors, as the rest of the tenements and lands within the said burgh respectively, are and shall be holden for ever. And for the mair security, both the said parties are content and consents that thir presents be insert and registrate in the court books of justice, or court books of any other judicatory in this nation, there to remain for the future memory of the premises, and to have the strength of a decreet of the judges thereof, and their authorities to be interponed thereto, that letters of horning on six days' charge, poinding, and others may pass hereupon as effeirs. And hereunto they constitute their lovits and ilk one of them conjunctly and severally their procurators, in most ample form of procuratory. In witness whereof thir presents are written by Robert Alexander of Blackhouse, writer in Paisley, whereof the other double is written by Mr. Robert Wallace, his servant. Both the saids parties have subscribed the samine with their hands, day, month, year, and place foresaid, before thir witnesses, Colonel Alexander, and Gawin Cochrans, brethren German to the said William Lord Cochran, James Dunlop of Househill, James Freeland, Fiar of that Ilk, servant to the said William Lord Cochran, and the said Mr. Robert Wallace, writer, and John Mackerrel, brother to Hillhouse, *Sic Subscribitur* W. Cochran, Cochran, John Perk, bailie, John Spreul. John Kelso, John Corswell, John Wallace, William Greenlees, William Adam, William Love, thesaurer, William Henderson, John Wilson, Robert Parkhill, Andrew Wilson, Thomas Juctice. I, Robert Alexander, notar public, do subscribe thir presents, for, and at command of the said William Greenlees, one of the bailies of the said burgh, and of John Snodgrass, Patrick Baird, William and John Paterson, councillors of the said burgh, because they cannot write themselves, as they assert, witnessing my sign and subscription, &c. I, Robert Perk, nottar public, required in the premises, have subscribed the same at command above-written, these my hand-writ and

sign testifying, &c. A. Cochran, witness, Ga. Cochran, witness, Ja. Dunlop, witness, Ja. Freeland, witness, John Mackerrel, witness, Ro. Wallace, witness, &c.

CHARTER OF CHARLES II.

CHARLES, by the Grace of God, King of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, To all honest men of his whole country, Clergy and Laity Greeting : Know ye, that we, with the express advice, consent and assent of our right trusty Cousin and Counsellor, John, Earl of Rothes, Lord Leslie of Balinbreich, our High Commissioner, Comptroller, Collector-General, and Treasurer of our new augmentations within our Kingdom of Scotland; and also with consent of our well-beloved Cousin and Counsellor, Lord Ballendon of Broughton, our Depute in said offices, and remanent Lords Commissioners of our Exchequer of our said Kingdom, have given, granted, and disposed, and by this present Charter of ours confirmed, and by the tenor hereof, give, grant, and dispone, and for ourselves and our successors, for ever confirm to our Lovites the Bailies, Treasurer, Council, and Community of the Burgh of Paisley, and their successors, all and whole the Burgh and Town of Paisley, with Burgh Acres, Crofts, Tenements, Houses, Burgh Mails, and Lands of Seedhills, annexed thereto, within the boundaries after-mentioned, and territory of the same, (excepting the Mills, called the Seedhill Mills, corn-kilns thereof, mill-hills or shilling-milns of the same, and astricted multures of the said Burgh of Paisley, and knaveship thereof, according to use and wont, and of the lands after-mentioned, within the territory of the same) : All and whole the Feu Duties of old addebted, obliged, and usual to be paid to the Abbot and Convent of the Abbey of Paisley, for the time being, and now to the Lords of Erection of Paisley, their Factors, and Chamberlains, in their names, of and for said Burgh of Paisley, houses, biggings, yards, tenements, acres, portions and parcels of land thereof, westward frae the east end of the Bridge of Paisley, and Mustard-dyke,

including and comprehending the lands of Calseside, Orchard, Bladoyard, Sneddon, Huthead, Wellmeadow, Broomlands and others, within the bounds, territory, and limits of the said Burgh of Paisley, property and commonalty of the same, (excluding the Feu Duties of the Lands called Oakshaw-wood and Wardmeadow, which are noways comprehended in this present Charter) with the former and accustomed privileges and liberties of that part of the Moss of Paisley, bounded betwixt the marches of the Lands of Ferguslie and Merksworth, according to the ancient rights and titles thereof, granted to the said Bailies, Treasurer, Council, and Community of the said Burgh of Paisley, and their predecessors, and their possession used and wont; together with fairs, markets, and their privileges, and whole other pertinents whatsoever, belonging to said Burgh; with power to elect, chuse, change, and continue the Provost, Bailies, Burgesses, Officers, and other Members of said Burgh of Paisley, and of having and keeping there a free market, on the Friday of each week, in all time coming; and also of holding there two public fairs yearly, one thereof, on twenty-fifth June, commonly called St. James the Apostle's Day, and the other on 26th October, commonly called St. Marnock's Day, each year in all time coming; with the tolls, customs, privileges, jurisdictions, advantages, and immunities whatsoever, belonging, or that may be justly understood to belong to the said Burgh of Paisley; and particularly without prejudice to the said Generality, with the privilege, liberty, and power of buying and selling within the said Burgh, wine, wax, cloth, woollen and linen, broad and narrow, and all other goods and merchandise, brought thereto, with power and liberty of having therein, bakers, brewers, fleshers, and sellers of fish as well as flesh, and craftsmen of all the crafts belonging to said Burgh and Liberties thereof; which Burgh and Town of Paisley, Burgh acres, crofts, tenements, houses, Burgh mails, and lands of Seedhills annexed thereto, within the bounds and territories above mentioned, (excepting as above excepted) said Feu-duties and casualties, of old addebted, obliged, and usual to be paid now and formerly to the persons respectively above mentioned, forth of and for the said Burgh of Paisley, houses, biggings, yards, tenements, acres, roods, and parcels of land thereof, within the bounds above mentioned, including and

comprehending, as is above included and comprehended, and excepting and secluding, as is above excepted and secluded, with the ancient and accustomed privileges of the Moss of Paisley, bounded and described as above specified, and rights granted to the said Bailies, Treasurer, Council, and Community of the said burgh, and their predecessors, and powers, rights, and privileges above more fully narrated, formerly belonging heritably to William Lord Cochran, William Master of Cochran, his eldest son, and the said Bailies, Treasurer, Council, and Community of the said Burgh of Paisley, or one or other of them, and were by them, or their Procurators, in their names, in virtue of patent letters, and procuratories of resignation, resigned purely and simply by staff and baton, as use is, into the hands of the Commissioners of our Exchequer, having power of receiving resignations in our name, and of granting new Infestments conform thereto, in favour of, and for this our new Infestment, to be made and granted by us and our Commissioners of Exchequer in our name, to said Bailies, Treasurer, Council, and Community of the said Burgh, and their successors in said offices, at Edinburgh, 24th November last past, as in the authentic instruments of resignation respectively above written, taken in the hands of Mr. Robert Wallace, N. P. is more fully expressed. Moreover, we, with the advice and consent foresaid, have ratified, approved, and by this present Charter confirmed, and by the tenor hereof ratify, approve, and for ourselves and our successors for ever confirm a contract of alienation, entered into, made and perfected, between said William, Lord Cochran, William, Master of Cochran, both with one consent and assent, on the one part, and William Greenlees, and John Park, Merchants, at that time Bailies of said Burgh of Paisley, William Love, then Treasurer, and the other Councillors for the time, of the said Burgh thereto, subscribing for themselves, and as taking burden for the Community of said Burgh, on the other part, dated 3d May, 1658, by virtue of which contract, the said William Lord Cochran, and William Master of Cochran, his eldest son, renounced, resigned, and discharged all right of superiority over the said Burgh of Paisley, within the bounds specially above mentioned, excepting as above excepted, to the effect expressed in the said contract. Moreover, said William,

Lord Cochran, and William, Master of Cochran, his son, both with one consent, as said is, by virtue of the said contract, renounced, upgave simply, and resigned from them, their heirs and successors, to and in favour of said Bailies, Council, Treasurer, Community, and Inhabitants of said Burgh of Paisley, and their successors all right of property and magistracy of said Burgh, and election of Bailies, Council, Clerks, Burgesses, Officers, and other members of the same, in all time coming, and of the tenements, lands, and others within the said Burgh, and lands of Seedhills thereto annexed, within the bounds and territories of the same above mentioned, (excepting as is before excepted) to the effect said Bailies, Council, and Community of said Burgh, and their successors, may bruick, enjoy, and possess the same conform to their respective rights, and may be in capacity to elect, remove, and continue their Magistrates, Bailies, Councillors, Treasurer, Clerks, Officers, Burgesses, and all other members usual and necessary, within the said Burgh, as to them shall seem expedient. As also, the saids William Lord Cochran, and William his Son, both with one consent and assent, for themselves and their foresaids, sold, disposed, renounced, assigned and overgave from them and their foresaids, to and in favours of said Bailies, Council, Treasurer, and Community of said Burgh, and their successors for the public use of the said Burgh, all and whole the feu-duties above written, of old addebted, obliged, and usual to be paid to the Abbot and Convent of the Abbacy of Paisley, and since that time to the persons respectively above named, forth of, and for the said Burgh of Paisley, houses, biggings, yards, tenements, acres, roods and parcels of land thereof, bounded, comprehending and excluding, as said is, with the former and accustomed privileges of that part of the Moss of said Burgh of Paisley, bounded as above expressed, in all the heads, articles, and circumstances of the same whatsoever, in so far as said contract can afford a title, and support, corroborate and fortify the said resignation, made in the hands of our said Commissioners of Exchequer; and especially this present Charter of ours, and Infestments, and rights to be expedite and granted hereon to the said Bailies, Treasurer, Council and Community of the said Burgh of Paisley, and their successors to be holden and to hold, all and whole said Burgh and Town of Paisley,

Burgh-acres, crofts, tenements, houses, Burgh-mails, and lands of Seedhills thereto annexed, the said feu-duties and Moss, lying bounded and excepted as above written, and powers and privileges of the same specially above mentioned, by said Bailies, Council, Treasurer, and Community of said Burgh, and their successors, of us, and our successors, as Princes and Stewards of Scotland, in free blench and heritage for ever, by all righteous meithes, old and devised, as the same lie, in breadth and length, houses, biggings, bosses, plains, muirs, marshes, ways, paths, waters, pools, rivers, fields, meadows, pastures, mills, multures, and sequels thereof, hawkings, huntings, fishing, peats and turf, cunnings, cunninggars, doves, dove-cotes, smithies, kilns, breweries, whins, woods, groves, plantings, trees and bushes, stone and lime quarries, with courts and their issues herezelds and

with pit and gallows, sock, sack

wrack, wair, waif

or

with the common pasturage, and free ish and entry, and with all the other liberties, advantages, profits, easements, and just pertinents whatsoever, as well not named as named, both above and below the ground, far and near, belonging, or that may be justly understood to belong in future to said lands and pertinents in any manner of way, freely, quietly, fully, wholly, honourably, well and in peace, without any revocation, contradiction, impediment or obstacle whatever; paying from thence yearly, said Bailies, Council, Treasurer, and Community of the said Burgh of Paisley, and their successors, to us and our successors, as Princes and Stewards of Scotland, the sum of seven pounds money of Scotland yearly, at the feast of Pentecost, as a proportional part of the blench-duty of the lordship of Paisley, for all other burden, exaction, question, demand, or secular service which can be required or exacted by any person, in any manner of way, from said Burgh of Paisley, duties, feu-duties, privileges and others specially before expressed. Moreover, we will and grant, and for ourselves and successors, decern and ordain, that one seisin to be taken at the market-cross of said Burgh of Paisley, or within any other part of the same, by the Bailies, Council Treasurer, and Community aforesaid, shall be held a sufficient seisin for and whole the said Burgh and town of Paisley, Burgh-acres, crofts, tenements Burgh-Mails, and

lands of Seedhill thereto annexed, feu-duties and moss, lying, bounded and excepted, as said is, with the powers and privileges of the same, specially above mentioned, in all time coming, notwithstanding the same lie discontinuous, and in different parts, and with which we for ourselves and our successors, have dispensed, and by the tenor hereof dispense with for ever; declaring always this our Charter, to be granted without prejudice to the right of superiority, and others belonging to us, by the act of annexation, made in the year 1633. In witness whereof, we have commanded our Great Seal to be appended to this our Charter, before these witnesses, our well-beloved Cousins and Counsellors, William Earl Marischal, Lord Keith and Altrie, our Marshal, and Keeper of our Privy Seal, John, Earl of Lauderdale, Viscount Maitland, Lord Thirlestane and Hatton, our Secretary, our Lovite Privy-Counsellors, Sir Archibald Primrose of Dummany, keeper of the Rolls, Clerk of Counsel and Session, Exchequer and Parliament, Sir John Home of Renton, our Justice Clerk, Knights, and Sir William Ker of Haddin, Knight, Director of our Chancery, at Edinburgh, 8th December, 1665, and 17th year of our reign.

(*L. S.*) Sealed, at Edinburgh, 28th July, 1666. (Signed)
J. Bontein, written to the Great Seal, 27th July, 1666.
 (Signed) *J. Achesone*, Dep.

DUES OR CUSTOMS,

Levyable by the Tacksman of the Custom-Booth, Tacksman of the Meal-Mercat, and Tacksman of the Fairs, in the Town of Paisley.

John Lock, Tenant in Cruickston, and John Fleming, Tenant in Hillhead, having brought a process of Declarator before the Lords of Council and Session, against the Magistrates and Town Council of Paisley, for having it found that they are not entitled to levy Custom upon Milk, Butter, Potatoes, Meal, or

Fresh Fish.—After much debate, their Lordships, in the years 1789, 1790, and 1791, assoilzied the said Magistrates and Council from the Action. What follows is a copy of the Table of Customs produced in said Process, and which the Tacksman in future is entitled to levy.

Custom Booth.

SCOTS MONEY..

s. d.

I. A Load of Sheaf Lint or Hemp, brought to the Borough for Sale,	2	0
And when weighed at the Weigh House, for each Stone,	1	0
II. Each Pack of Wool, when exposed to Sale,	2	0
And when weighed at the Weigh House, for each Stone,	1	0
III. Each Bag or Pock of Cotton, under 100 weight, and weighed at the Weigh House,	2	0
IV. Each do. above 100 weight, when weighed in do.	4	0
V. Each Stone of Salt Butter brought to Town for sale, whether weighed or not, but the Customer obliged to weigh it, if desired,	1	0
VI. Any quantity of Salt Butter, under a Stone, and to be weighed also if required,	0	6
VII. Each horse load of Salt exposed to Sale, in the Mercat, or on the streets,	1	6
Each single cart load of salt brought to Town to be retailed in shops, or on the streets,	6	0
VIII. Each Stone of Fish exposed to Sale, and to be weighed by the Customer, at the Weigh House, if required,	0	6
IX. Each Hogshead of Flaxseed,	6	0
X. Each Stone of Brass or Copper, when weighed at the Weigh House,	1	6
XI. Each Stone of Lead or Iron weighed there,	0	6
XII. Each Stone of Tallow weighed there,	0	6
XIII. Each Stone of Butcher Meat, weighed there,	0	6
XIV. Each Stone of Soap, Ashes, or other Bleaching stuffs, weighed,	0	6

SCOTS MONEY.

	s.	d.
XV. Each single cart load of Fruit, coming to Town for Sale,	4	0
XVI. Each horse load of ditto.	1	0
XVII. Each double cart load of Potatoes brought to Town for Sale,	3	0
XVIII. Each single cart load of ditto.	2	0
XIX. Each horse load, ditto.	1	0
XX. Each Gardener's stand in the Green Mercat,	1	0
XXI. Each load of Kail Plants,	1	0
XXII. Each Cheese of 8lb. and under,	0	3
XXIII. Each do. above 8lb. and below 16lb.	0	6
XXIV. Each cheese 16lb. and above,	0	9
XXV. Each Cog or Kit of Fresh Butter, when brought to Sale without the Milk,	0	6
Each load or draught of Milk, whether with or without Butter,	0	6
XXVI. Each Barrel of Herrings sold in the Mercat or Shops,	0	9
XXVII. Each stand of Merchandise of any kind,	0	6
XXVIII. Each ditto at Public Fairs,	1	0
N.B. <i>Burgesses to pay one half of the above, except the last Four articles, as to which, Burgesses to pay nothing.</i>		
Each hand Creel with Eggs, containing Six Dozen or under,	1	Egg.
All Creels, containing Eggs, from 6 doz. and not above 12 doz.,	2	Eggs.
Do. do. from 12 and not above 18 doz.	3	Eggs.
Do. do. from 18 and not above 24 doz.	4	Eggs.
Do. do. from 24 and not above 30 doz.	5	Eggs.
Do. do. from 30 and not above 36 doz.	6	Eggs.
Do. do. from 36 and not above 40 doz.	7	Eggs.
Do. do. from 40 and not above 46 doz.	8	Eggs.
Do. do. from 46 and not above 50 doz.	9	Eggs.
and so in proportion.		

Meal Mercat.

	SCOTS MONEY	
	s.	d.
Each load of Meal, Beans, Pease and Barley, sold in the		
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For every Horse, Mare, Gelding or Colt, coming to the		
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And when sold, from the Buyer,	1	0
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And when Sold, from the Buyer,	1	0
<i>N B. Burgeses to pay One Half of the above.</i>		

MONASTERY.

AT one period, Renfrewshire was all comprehended in the deanery of Rutherglen, being one of the ten deaneries of the Episcopal see of Glasgow. The only monastic establishment in the county was that of Paisley, founded by Walter, son of Alan, the first of the Stewarts. This monastery appears to have been founded in the year 1163, for a Prior, and thirteen Cluniac Monks, whom its founder brought from Wenlock in Shropshire, his native country.

The monastery was dedicated generally to God and the Virgin

Mary, and in particular to St. James and St. Mirin, the last of whom seems to have been a Scottish Confessor, who passed his days in this vicinity, became afterwards the tutelar saint of the place, and was commemorated on the 15th of September. This monastery, by its original constitution, was ruled by a prior. But about the year 1220, it was, by a bull of Pope Honorius, raised to the rank of an abbacy, and the lands belonging to it were afterwards erected into a regality, under the jurisdiction of an abbot. Its Abbot was entitled to wear a mitre, a ring, and other pontificals; and he and the monks obtained from the Popes many bulls, confirming their rights, and conferring on them certain privileges. It was liberally endowed by Walter, its founder.

The Abbey of Paisley was the family burying-place of the Stewarts, before their accession to the throne, and even after that period, Euphémie, Queen of Robert II., and Robert III. were buried at Paisley; the first in 1387, and the second in 1406. The monastery was destroyed by fire by the English in 1307. It was afterwards rebuilt and greatly enlarged. The magnificent Abbey Church, which existed at the Reformation, seems to have been built in the reigns of James I. and II., and was nearly completed by Abbot Thomas Tarvas, in 1459.* It was after the model of a Cathedral, in the form of a cross, with a very lofty steeple, finished after the abbot's death. The spacious buildings of this monastery, with its extensive orchards and gardens, and

*"The yer of God mcccclix. the penult day of Janii, decessit at Paisley, Thomas Tarvas, Abbot of Pasley, the quhilk was ane richt gude man, and helplyk to the place of ony that ever was; for he did mony notable thingis, and held ane noble hous, and was aye wele purvait. He fand the place all out of gud rewle, and destitute of leving, and all the kirkis in lordis handis, and the kirk unbiggit. The body of the kirk fra the bricht stair up, he biggit and put on the ruf, and theeket it with sclait, and riggit it with stane, and biggit ane great porcioun of the steple, and ane staitlie yethous, and brocht hame money gud jowellis, and clathis of gold, silver, and silk, and mony gud bukis, and made staitlie stallis, and glasynit mekle of all the kirk; and brocht hame the staitliest tabernakle that was in all Scotland, and the mast costlie. And shortlie he brocht all the place to fredome, and fra nocht till ane mighty place, and left it out of all kynd of det, and at all fredome till dispone as thaim lykit, and left ane of the best myteris that was in Scotland, and chandillaris of silver, and ane lettren of bras, with mony uther gud jowellis."—*Auchinleck Chronicle*.

a small park for fallow-deer, were surrounded by a magnificent wall of cut stone, upwards of a mile in circumference. This wall was built in the reign of James III. in 1485, by George Shaw, Abbot of Paisley.

CHURCH OF THE MONASTERY.

THE church of the monastery when entire appears to have consisted of a nave, a northern transept, and a choir, with the chapel commonly called "the Sounding Aile," partly on what would have formed the site of the southern transept. The edifice has been 265 feet in length, measured over the walls. The internal measurement of the nave is 9 feet 3 inches in length, and 59 feet 6 inches in breadth, including the width of the aisles, the northern of which is $13\frac{1}{2}$ feet, and the southern $12\frac{3}{4}$ wide, leaving 33 feet 5 inches as the width of the nave proper. The transept measures internally $92\frac{1}{2}$ feet by 35, and the choir, which has been without aisles, $123\frac{1}{2}$ by 32 feet. The measurement of the transept is carried across the church, to the wall of what is called St. Mirren's chapel, or the sounding-ale.

Externally, the walls of the side aisles of the nave are surmounted by a plain parapet, at about 27 feet from the ground; the walls of the nave rise 33 feet higher, and the parapet is pierced by embrasures. From the ground to the roof of the building, the height is 82, and to the top of the belfry 90 feet.

The west front of the church is an elevation of much dignity, composed of a grand central and two lateral compartments, separated and flanked by buttresses, three of which are terminated by recently erected cones, a similar one of which is on the east end of the nave.

The interior of the nave is truly magnificent. Ten massy clustered columns, 17 feet in height, with simple but elegantly moulded capitals, divide the aisles from the body of the fabric. Of these columns, the circumference of each of the two nearest the west is more than double that of any of the others, plainly

indicating that they were intended by the architect, in connection with the front wall, to support two western towers.

ST. MIRIN'S AISLE.

SOUTH of the nave or present church, and closely adjoining to it, is the *cloister court*, a quadrangle of about 60 feet, the buildings around which still display evident traces of the piazza itself. From this court entrance is afforded to St. Mirin's or the sounding aisle, called also the Abercorn chapel, a building on the east side of the court, of about 48 feet long, by 24 broad, and well-paved,—about 15 feet of the floor at the east end being raised above the rest. In the east gable is a large and very handsome window, of four trefoil-headed lights, (though now blocked up,) the arches filled with tracery, composed chiefly of quatrefoils. Beneath this window is a series of sculptured figures, in tolerably bold relief, apparently of ecclesiastics engaged in various offices prescribed by the Romish ritual. These figures are placed in a sort of belt, of about a foot and a-half in width, extending between the two side walls, except in the space near the centre of the gable, where probably, at one time, an altar stood. This, with the piscina and its niche on the south wall, confirms the opinion of this structure having been the private chapel or oratory of the monks, whose magnificent church appears almost from the very first to have been put to general parochial use. On the north wall appear the two large arches, now filled up. The roof is groined, the ribs springing diagonally from two slender triplicated shafts on the southern side. Under the elevated pavement, at the east end is a large vault 14 feet deep, the burying place of the Abercorn family; and on the south wall, between the large arches we noticed, is an inscription in memory of some younger branches of the Hamilton family. Nearly in the centre of the lower floor is an altar tomb, commonly called "Queen Bleary's tomb," which, after lying for many years in a mutilated state, and exposed in the

open air, was found, about twenty years ago, among the fragments of other pieces of sculpture. It was reconstructed, coated with stone-coloured cement, and placed in its present position, under the direction of the late Dr. Boog, to whose taste the inhabitants of Paisley are much indebted, not only for the transportation of this monument, from the cloister court to its present sheltered situation, but also for the removal of those ignoble buildings, which, at one time shaded the western facade of the church, blocking up the great doorway, and part of the fine windows. Round the upper part of the tomb is a series of compartments, filled with boldly sculptured figures of ecclesiastics, quatrefoils, and shields with armorial bearings. On the slab, which is the top of the monument, projecting so as to form a kind of moulded cornice over the sides and ends of the tomb, is the figure of a female, in a recumbent posture, with hands-closed, in the attitude of prayer, the head resting on a cushion, and over the head an elegant canopy, of the kind common over Gothic niches. This altar tomb is to the memory of Queen Marjory Bruce, who, falling from her horse when passing from Paisley to Renfrew, was killed, and is buried here.

This chapel being vaulted, and containing nothing but this monument, has an echo so remarkable as to have obtained for it the name of "the sounding aile." Instrumental or vocal music performed in it has a curious effect, from the prolongation and consequent mingling of the notes. The noise and reverberation arising from the sudden and forcible shutting of the door, after the entrance of a visitor, are often very startling.

The chapel of St. Mirin's is a fine specimen of the architecture of the olden time, and the echo alluded to is truly astonishing; and as a matter of course, is visited by almost all visitors to our ancient burgh. It is placed under the care of Mr. M'DONALD, baron-officer, by the Marquis of ABERCORN.



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